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The Present mincing horror at free womanhood must pass
if we are ever to be rid of the bestiality of free manhood...
W.E.B. Dubois

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S MINORITY VOICE - SINCE 1981

WEEK ENDING JANUARY 17, 1997

Teaching Black Talk?

by Aisha Molake
As the media-fueled debate about Ebonics raged through the Black community, Oakland, Calif., Unified School Board members met with the Rev. Jesse Jackson on Dec. 30 in an effort to clear misconceptions about their decision earlier that ignited a national debate about the legitimacy of "Black English."

Board members, who rendered a policy Dec. 18 to use Ebonics as a method to teach Black students standard English, claim that media distortions of the Ebonics program resulted in harsh criticisms from city officials and prominent Black leaders, including the Rev. Jackson.

However, Rev. Jackson retracted his initial statement that Ebonics is "teaching down" to our children and that the program is "bordering on disgrace," offering his support to the program.

"Their intent is to teach the children standard English. If the intent were not to teach the standard English I would object," he said following his meeting with board members.

"This past week gave us a very clear indication of the power of the media," Oakland Superintendent Carolyn Gettridge told *The M Voice*, "The fact that all across America people did not understand the goals and intent of the board can be directly linked to the message that was portrayed in the media. I want to be clear that we are not teaching Ebonics... our goal is that every student in our school district speaks, reads, and writes proficiently in English."

During Oakland's winter break, students were overwhelmed by reporters, who often stopped them

on the street to ask about Ebonics. "They were unaware of the policy so of course the students' response was, 'well, we don't need to be taught slang,'" Ms. Gettridge said. However, parents have grown supportive after learning of the board's objectives. Calls have also poured in from other predominately Black districts around the nation that have expressed an interest in the Ebonics programs, she said.

In a Dec. 25 statement Supt. Gettridge said she hoped others who have criticized the school board's decision will take time to obtain the board's policy, as Rev. Jackson has done. Public figures such as Oakland Mayor Elihu Harris, State Supt. of Instruction Delaine Eastin, NAACP President Kwesi Mfume, poet Maya Angelou, and historians and linguists at universities around the country have

criticized the school through the media.

"The Rev. Jackson's primary concern was how the decision was played in the media and how it was perceived in our village," board member Toni Cook said of the Dec. 30 meeting.

At the outset, Oakland residents appeared convinced by media reports that the school board was using Ebonics as a ploy to obtain federal funding. "This is the way many in our village heard the story. They did not know the city, the district, and school board were predominately Black. But, Rev. Jackson's visit and *The Final Call* newspaper brought clarity, so all praise is due to Allah," Ms. Cook said.

Black students in Oakland account for 53 percent of the district's population.

BY John William Templeton
The coverage of the Oakland School Board's decision to embrace the Standard English Proficiency program district wide an example of "straw-man journalism."

Some reporters have pulled a "gotcha" on high-ranking state and federal officials by asking them if they embrace the district "teaching Black English." Betrayed by their ignorance of the linguistic and pedagogy issues involved, those officials have issued truly loony statements.

Since 1991, it has been a policy of the State Board of Education to recognize Ebonics, the syncretization of African and European languages, while designing curriculum strategies. Dr. Ernie Smith, a Southern California linguist, developed the term and the research behind the findings. Dr. Noma Lemoine put the theory to work in Los Angeles with the Language Development Program for African-American Students, which has been in effect in dozens of Los Angeles schools for more than five years.

Like many who hear a snap characterization of "Black English," I was somewhat skeptical of the concept before hearing Dr. Lemoine explain it. Simply, the primary human language acquisition occurs before age four. Any language learning after that has to occur on the foundation of that original language acquisition. A French person who learns English still thinks in French. The language patterns common to African-American communities across the Western Hemisphere, whether expressed in English, French, Spanish or Dutch, carry a common set of grammar and syntax rules that are traced to the languages of the Niger-Congo region of Africa. Those patterns are not just incorrect English, but an intentional retention of that culture.

Ebonics is far more than non-standard use of "to be" and combining consonants. It is also the magical use of simile and metaphor, the mastery of inflection and tone and the persuasive qualities that have made people like Paul Robeson, Sidney Poitier, Mary McLeod Bethune,

W.E.B. DuBois and Martin Luther King Jr. some of the country's greatest orators.

As teachers learn more about Ebonics, they not only gain a better understanding of their students but can show students how to turn those cultural attributes into strengths. The state of California and the federal government have been finding the research that has gleaned these simple truths for two decades. As long as a few academics banished the theories about, no one cared. But programs like Dr. Lemoine's have discovered that the targeted children do learn standard English better when taught this way. Oakland teachers have piloted the Standard English Proficiency program, often at their own expense for three years, attending conferences, doing their own ad-hoc in-service and sharing their results with whoever would listen. The decision to adopt their strategies on a district-wide basis is an object lesson in school reform—not fodder for talk-show hosts.

People like Delaine Eastin, the superintendent of schools, who automatically attach lower standards with "Black" do not set foot in these schools where parents and teachers and students are tackling textbooks and curriculum that do not meet their needs. Black parents particularly are fed up with the "soul murder" being committed on their youngsters before they even reach the fourth grade. If school choice and parental input are meaningful concepts, then these programs that are making a difference must be nurtured, refined and duplicated. It is time to stop the systematic demotivation that Carter G. Woodson, father of Negro History Week, wrote about in 1931 in "The Miseducation of the Negro." I would urge any critic of the Oakland program to read that book first before commenting on the program.

San Francisco-based writer John William Templeton manages an independent publishing house that provides social science and pedagogy books to California school districts. He is also editor of *Griot, the African-American, African and Caribbean business*

Call-in radio forum is held to discuss recent murders Community leaders look for, ask public for solutions

By Dawn Bryant
The Daily Reflector

Churches, parents and residents need to join efforts with the police department to solve Greenville's recent rash of murders and make the city safer, local leaders said Wednesday.

City, county, school and civic leaders participated in a two-hour call-in forum Wednesday sponsored by WOOW radio.

The group, which included Mayor Nancy Jenkins, Pitt County school board member Michael Dixon, three city councilmen and Bishop Randy Royal, discussed several solutions: getting the community, churches and parents involved; organizing a task force and giving young people in West Greenville—where the murders happened—alternatives to hanging out on the street.

The police department cannot do it by themselves," Bennie

Rountree, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said. "We all must take a part." Jim Rouse, owner of WOOW radio and West Greenville resident, organized the commercial-free session. "In 1997, our community is being plagued by young men killing each other," he said. "Sometimes it's not about money but dealing with problems that are in front of us. We made progress (Wednesday) because we brought white folks and black folks together to the table." Four black males have been shot to death in West Greenville since Christmas Eve, three killings occurring Jan. 2-4. Police have made only one arrest and still aren't sure whether the killings are related.

Several of the panelists, including Greenville Police Chief Charles Hinman, said drug activity played a role in each of the murders. County Commissioner Jeff Savage had a different view.

"It could very well be not drug related," he said. "I'm not quick to write it off to the drug culture. We could have a psychopath on our hands." The group agreed it will take more than the police department's efforts to keep crimes from occurring. Churches should reach out to the community, parents should become more involved in their children's lives, and residents should take a more active stand in reporting crimes and keeping crime out of their neighborhoods, panelists said. Residents who do have information about the murders or other crimes are afraid to go to the police, one caller, who did not give her name, said.

"If all of us start talking they can't kill us all," Rountree said. "If people would talk today they would probably solve it by 5 o'clock."

"The police department does not know who killed these people but the people in the community know.

So open your mouth." Fourteen residents called with questions and comments. Brenda Smith said the violence isn't limited to one area. "It's not where we live and how much money we have that makes things look bad," she said. "People are just mean now. You can't stop that. We can pray for the people."

Royal recommended a task force be appointed within the next couple of days. Instead of forming a new group, some of the city's established boards, including the Weed Task force, should become involved, Ms. Jenkins said. "We know that it is going to take all of us working together," she said. "It is going to take every single one of us." Compared with other cities, Greenville has been fortunate to not have had more violent activity, Ms. Jenkins said. "This has never occurred here," Savage said. "We don't want this to be the norm in 1997."

Supreme Court Rejects Request

The U.S. Supreme Court has ended the complex legal battle over the role of race in drawing Louisiana's congressional districts, narrowly rejecting a request by Congressman Cleo Fields of Baton Rouge to reconsider the map that eliminated his majority black district. Tracking recent rulings against what the court has called racial gerrymandering, the justices voted 5-4 to reject an appeal by Fields and the state's Legislative Black Caucus to rehear the case.

The decision killed any hopes of overturning Louisiana's current congressional districts. That means the new map, which contains just one majority black district, will likely remain in effect until the next round of redistricting after the 2000 census. The ruling brings to an end a battle that has been waged since four Lincoln Parish residents filed suit against districts drawing after the 1990 census. "This is all over," said Ray Hays, one of the residents involved in the suit filed in 1992.

Under the old map, Fields' district meandered across the state in a pattern resembling a giant "Z." The district was drawn to link up pockets of black voters around the state to create a second black-majority district, in keeping with Justice Department policy that states maximize black voting strength. But the Supreme Court questioned that policy and recent decisions have resulted in states redrawing maps to eliminate a number of majority-minority districts at the congressional, state and local levels. The Louisiana Legislature redrew the map to make the 4th District more compact, but a panel of federal judges threw that one out and drew its own, leaving one black majority district in New Orleans. The Supreme Court's decision leaves intact an 8-1 ruling the high court made in June that declared a challenge by Fields and the Justice Department legally moot.



"I'LL ALWAYS LOVE MY MAMA".... Deacon Wheeler Brown proudly shows off the love he feels for his mom...Mother Sadie Brown... who was celebrating her birthday recently. Deacon Brown readily attributes his success to the God-fearing upbringing he received from mom. Even the "Good Book" says the child that is brought up the way he should be shall not depart from it.

(STAFF PHOTO: Jim Rouse)



Holiday Time at "The Golden Touch" Beauty Salon. Sister B.J. thanks all of her clients for their continued patronage and support with a holiday party. Smiling faces were the order of the day. (BELOW) Sisters Ruby Taylor (L) and Doris Hansley (R) are ready to put the "finishing touches" on their styles.

(STAFF PHOTO: Jim Rouse)

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O.J. by the sea - Media bias prevents Simpson from getting fair coverage

By DENNIS SCHATZMAN

Royal Oakes, legal analyst for Los Angeles' all-news KFMB AM, was on the air within minutes of the announcement that O.J. Simpson had just won custody of his two youngest children, Sydney and Justin. Oakes, who also covered the criminal trial, and had told me that he believed that Simpson had murdered his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Lyle Goldman, was explaining to his listening audience that the law pretty much sided with Simpson throughout the custody suit. Then he threw in this biased caveat: "The children were awarded to Simpson because he had beaten the [murder] rap." And so it goes in the continuing saga of O.J. Simpson; whether or not he killed two white people on the night of June 12, 1994. The media thinks he did it, from the highest towers of power down to the lowly newspaper

stringer. This Othello/Willie Horton-type murderer has beaten the rap and the mass media have taken it upon them selves to right the alleged wrong. Down at the ocean front Santa Monica courtroom, termed "O.J. By the Sea," media bias against Simpson sticks out like a sore thumb. Consider, for example, how differently the mainstream media covered two of Simpson's expert witnesses; renowned blood expert MacDonell and noted forensic pathologist Michael Baden.

Last week, MacDonell could not be shaken from his expert analysis that blood from the torsos of Brown Simpson and Goldman was planted onto Simpson's socks allegedly found in his bedroom and that the infamous Isotoner gloves found both at the murder scene and at Simpson's estate could not have shrunk almost 25 percent. His testimony got almost no coverage. He and his wife,

Phyllis, stayed around for the afternoon session after his morning testimony and the media literally ignored him. It was a different story, however, for Baden, whose resume includes involvement in the cases of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, John Belushi and a host of other high-profile deaths. Ed Medvene, the quintessential "Philadelphia lawyer" who represents the plaintiffs suing Simpson, launched into a sophistic line of questioning which was designed to embarrass Baden. Sophistry is the ancient Greek art of making half-truths and outright distortions appear credible and factual. Baden had claimed, both in the criminal trial and in the civil one, that the scars on Simpson's finger couldn't have been made by Brown Simpson's fingernails. He also testified that Goldman stood on his feet long enough not only for the blood to have traveled down from

his thigh to his shoes, but also long enough for him to have vigorously fought off his assailant(s) so much that his knuckles were seriously bruised. Yet Medvene asked questions which prompted Baden to answer - not "yes" and "no" as the lawyer wanted, but with responses like, "yes, but . . . , no, but," or "let me explain" or "let me clarify." Responses like those are like blood to a shark for cross-examining attorney or a biased reporter. Predictably, reporters jumped at the bait. They skewered Baden in their coverage. Another example came to light when this columnist encountered former L.A. County District Attorney/nov trial analyst Ira Reiner in the trailer of a television network. While the network producers and we were discussing the stormy relationship of Simpson and his estranged wife this writer mentioned that since the

Continued on page 4

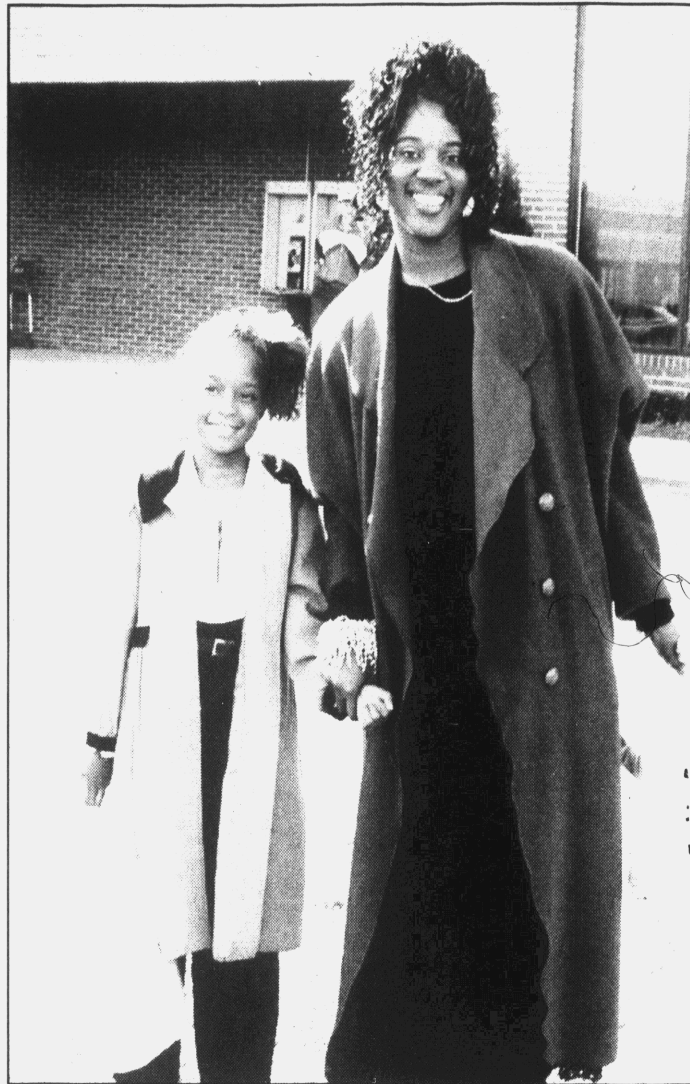
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The 'M' Voice

Sister Lila Jones, owner-operator of Hair Connection, is shown here with her lovely young daughter as they enjoy "bringing home the bacon" to prepare a scrumptious meal for dad. After all, meal time is "Family Time".

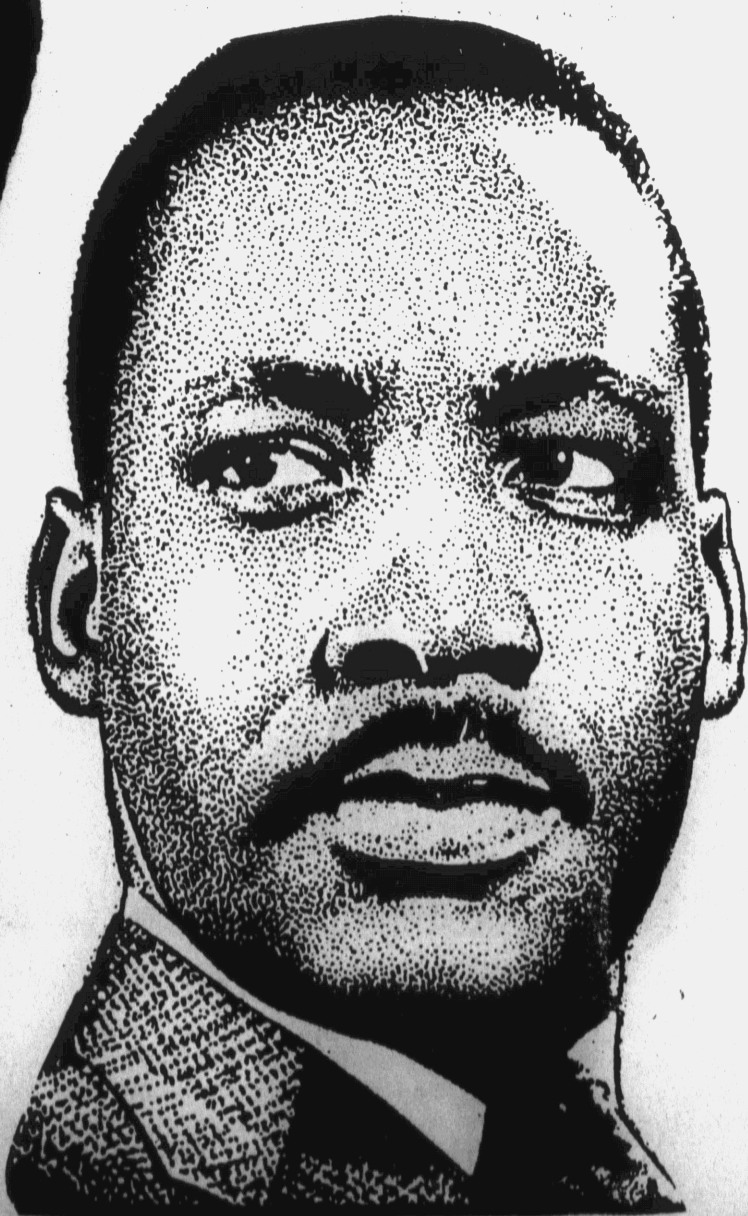
(STAFF PHOTO: Jim Rouse)

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from the desk of Mrs. Beatrice Maye



Mrs. Beatrice Maye

A SALUTE TO COUNCILMAN CHUCK AUTRY

Thursday, December 19, 1996, the *DAILY REFLECTOR* showed "Happy Times" because Chuck Autry, the peoples' friend, joined the youngsters at the South Greenville Boys and Girls Club for a celebration of the club's successful fund-raising effort. Not only was he involved in helping the club raise money to keep the doors open, but he also provided 555 pizzas for more than 80 youngsters at the party. This was truly Christmas giving from the heart. Congratulations and "thank you", Mr. Autry. Here is a hard working man with a big heart. Frequently we read and hear of his humanitarian spirit as positive efforts were

shown with the Piggly Wiggly conflict. He is a doer. Additionally, on Thursdays at his shop, a healthy meal is prepared and served to customers and friends. New Year's Day is no exception. "God, give us men! A time like this demands Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands..." Josiah Gilbert Holland

How to act in public
Life had changed enough in our society over the past 25 years for me to think that all we need is a refresher course in one of life's most basic concepts: How to act in Public. So, in case you've been influenced too much by crude and rude ways of life in the 90's, take a look.

1. Don't put your lips on the

- spout of the drinking fountain.
2. Always wait your turn.
3. Limping away from your car does not entitle you to a handicapped parking space.
4. Spell people's names correctly.
5. Be polite to the people working the drive-thru.
6. Don't drive in the express lane unless you are expressing.
7. If you don't wash your hands after using the restroom, you deserve any disease you get.
8. Laughing as you go through a red light does not reduce the changes of a collision.
9. Do not reshelve library books.
10. Clean out the shower for the next person.
11. Always tip fairly.
12. Return everything borrowed. Especially books. Today.
13. If you have to look around to check who is hearing your joke, don't tell it.

14. Don't talk during the National Anthem.
 15. Dim your lights for on-coming traffic.
- It may seem a little silly to see all of these rules listed - as if you were some kind of barbarian. But there is value in being reminded that we must treat others kindly. It's another way of showing that Christ lives in us.
- And that, according to the apostle Peter (1 Peter 3:8-17), is the best reason for living by the rules.
- From: Campus Journal, November 1996
- "Practice the principle of politeness".
- Date Abuse**
The classic signs of date abuse are clear: Possessiveness, jealousy, humiliation, blaming the victim, physical injury, sexual demands, domination by fear. If you are in-

- volved in a dating relationship with one or more of these signs, you too are a victim of date abuse.
- But how do you end it?
1. Admit there is a problem. You are being abused. Call it what it is.
 2. Put the responsibility where it belongs - on him. The abuser may tell you that it's your fault, but that's only manipulation.
 3. Break the silence. Tell someone. Confide in a counselor, dean, pastor, or friend you can trust. Devise a plan to end the relationship and protect yourself from further harm.
 4. Seek the comfort and counsel of God.

If you're in an abusive relationship, take action now. With the help of God, get out of it.

From: Campus Journal, November 1996

"True love doesn't hurt others".

THINK About it'

A little peeking at someone's test paper leads to flagrant cheating. An "innocent" can of beer becomes an addiction to alcohol. A passionate kiss leads to...I'm sure you get the message.

Question: Which kind of enticement has Satan used on me? What have I done to resist him?

- "Feed on the truth or you'll swallow a lie".
- "When life gets harder, lean harder on Christ",
- "Heaven is reserved for members of God's family".
- "Every new day of life is a gift from God!".
- "It's wise to benefit from your stupid mistakes".
- "People who hang out at church seldom get in trouble".
- "Keep your word - or lose your integrity"
- "What's wrong with the world is what's wrong in my heart".
- "Be kind to your mind."

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Assistant Professor of Medicine, ECU School of Medicine
Infectious Diseases

John Morrow, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Pitt County Health Department

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Mobutu is back, what must Africa do?

Last Friday I had the opportunity to interview Pierre Emmanuel Ubalijoro, the Second Counsel to the Rwandan Mission to the United Nations, on my weekly public affairs television show, *Fulani!* I invited him to share his insights on the complex crisis unfolding in Rwanda and neighboring Zaire.

The crisis escalated this week with Mobutu Sese Seko's return to Zaire, after a four month stay in Europe for cancer treatment. Much of the region's misery can be attributed to Mobutu's 31 year reign of terror. Among other crimes, Mobutu was a staunch ally of the former extremist regime in Rwanda which was overthrown by the Rwanda Patriotic Front—Mr. Ubalijoro's government—two and a half years ago. Mobutu appears now to be trying to rally his military for an assault on the pro-democracy rebels who have taken control of the eastern part of the country and liberated hundreds of thousands of Rwandans trapped

in the refugee camps there.

In the course of four months in 1994, this extremist Rwanda regime organized the mass murder of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Tutsis, as well as thousands of ethnic Hutus who opposed the regime and its genocidal policies. The genocide was a last ditch attempt by the corrupt and dictatorial regime of the late President Juvenal Habyarimana to hold on to power in the face of strong internal and international pressure to move to a power-sharing agreement with the Rwanda Patriotic Front and other Rwanda opposition parties. The western press usually reports that 500,000 people were eliminated by the regime's killing machine. In reality, Mr. Ubalijoro told us, over a million people died—sometimes at the rate of 10,000 a day. The international community did nothing to stop the slaughter, worse, the United Nations Security Council, under strong pressure from the United States, reduced the small

peacekeeping force stationed in Rwanda, "leaving the Rwandans to themselves."

The killing only abated when the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) launched a major offensive, driving the army and its lynch mobs into the west of Rwanda, and family, into Zaire. As they fled, officials and soldiers of the former government destroyed or stole everything of value, and caused over two million Hutu civilians to flee with them into neighboring Zaire and Tanzania by convincing them they would be killed by the RPF's new government if they stayed.

The Tanzanian Government attempted, with some success, to disarm the refugees and their military "leaders" as they arrived in their country. But in Zaire, the situation was quite different. Mobutu permitted the former Rwandan armed forces to keep their weapons, to reorganize, and to carry out cross-border attacks against the RPF. The geno-

cidal militias ruled the refugee camps. Mr. Ubalijoro told us that, "in order to reach the refugees, the international relief agencies had to deal with the militias, who used the refugees as bargaining chips." The Rwanda war criminals imposed taxes on the refugees (using the revenues to buy weapons), forced young men and women to undergo military training, and, Mr. Ubalijoro added, "exported their genocidal ideology to Zaire." That is, the Rwandan extremists linked up with the corrupt army of Mobutu and began carrying out "ethnic cleansing" operations against Zairian Tutsi communities, murdering thousands and driving them from their farms and businesses.

Facing extermination, these Tutsi communities joined with an array of anti-Mobutu guerrilla organizations—the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire—and attacked the camps, routing the Rwanda militias and their Zairian

allies, and liberating the refugees. For the past two months, hundreds of thousands of refugees have returned to Rwanda, many bearing machete and bullet wounds inflicted on them by the militias in an attempt to prevent their leaving.

Now Mr. Ubalijoro's government must face the challenge of re-integrating these refugees to an economy and society still reeling from the genocide and destruction of 1994. Mr. Ubalijoro emphasized that the international community must drop its talk of deploying a military force to the region, and shift its mission to providing economic assistance to the new Rwandan government. In addition, the work of the International Tribunal—which the United Nations promised to set up to try war crimes—must be expedited, if the cycle of impunity is to be broken. In a step toward national reconciliation, Rwanda has passed a law establishing graduated degrees of culpability for the genocide, and providing amnesty for some crimes in return for full confessions and ac-

knowledge of guilt. "Some amnesty is necessary," said Mr. Ubalijoro. "To create a coherent society, we must learn how to forgive."

Clearly, one of the "root causes" of the Central African tragedy is the Mobutu regime. The solution to the crisis is in the hands of the democratic forces of Central African—the Rwanda Patriotic Front, the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, and Zaire's constitutional democracy movement led by the popular Etienne Tshisekedi—who deserve the full support of the international community.

Lenora B. Fulani twice ran for President of the U.S. as an independent, making history in 1988 when she became the first woman and African American to get on the ballot in all fifty states. Dr. Fulani is currently a leading activist in the Reform Party and chairs the Committee for a Unified Independent Party. She can be reached at 800-288-3201 or through her home page at www.fulani.org.

A Salute To Martin Luther King, Jr



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3	16,874	24,013	1,407	2,002	325	462
4	20,280	28,860	1,690	2,405	390	555
5	23,686	33,707	1,974	2,809	456	649
6	27,092	38,554	2,258	3,213	521	742
7	30,498	43,401	2,542	3,617	587	835
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Nutrition Services Section (7/96)



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Dorothy Height is a symbol of commitment. She has led the first national coalition of Black women's organizations for over 30 years. With innovative programs such as the annual Black Family Reunion Celebrations, Height and the NCNW are keeping alive the history, tradition and culture of the Black family.

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My Autobiography

I, Christie G. Fox, was born and raised in Newport North Carolina. I am the proud daughter of James and Jean Fox. I have attended Faith Tabernacle of Praise of Beaufort North Carolina since the age of thirteen, under the leadership of Donald and Debbie Crooms.

I began singing shortly after I received Christ. I have sung in various denomination church functions, public auxiliaries, inauguration of legislative officials, Charlotte Jazz Festival, peace marches, from as far as Miami Florida, Atlanta Georgia, North Carolina, and New Jersey.

I am currently a Junior at East Carolina University, in Greenville, North Carolina. My concentration is Political Administration and Transportation. My future goals is to be in the political arena to be the bridge for the improved living conditions for minority citizens. Ministering to the lost, abused, and the broken hearted through song and service is the center focus point of my career objective. I plan to work internationally with building and organizing better living conditions for communities and providing jobs that will affect the improved welfare for all.

There are many aspirations we all have in life, but I will say that my aspirations are not focused on just the career or the degree. It is knowing that all my heavenly father has given me in this life to succeed through his power, I have given back to Him by glorifying His excellence here on earth. Not just by being a difference but making the difference. Then and only then can I say to God be the glory.

Navy officer returns after six months out

January 9, 1997 (FHTNC)—Navy Petty Officer 3rd class Antonio L. Moore whose wife, Daneille, is the daughter of Darlene Short of 3344 Tobacco Road, Greenville, N.C., recently returned from a six-month deployment aboard the fast combat support ship USS Supply.

Home ported in Norfolk, Va., Moore was one of more than 550 Sailors aboard the ship who traveled more than 38,000 miles while operating with the USS Enterprise Battle Group. The battle group included eight tactical aircraft squadrons, seven combatant ships.

Continued on Page Four.



Black History Month

James Pierson Beckwourth
1798-1866

James P. Beckwourth was a true pioneer. He was a lover of adventure, a fur trapper, scout, and trader. He was adopted by the Crow Indian nation. This mountain man discovered a passage through the Sierra Nevada Mountains which helped many settlers reach California more easily.

Beckwourth was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia, on April 6, 1798. His father, who was White, fought in the Revolutionary War. His mother was a slave in his father's house. Beckwourth had twelve brothers and sisters. After completing only four years of schooling, he then worked as a blacksmith's helper for five years in St. Louis, Missouri.

As a young boy, Beckwourth had heard stories about the mountain men who lived in the West. He dreamed about being an explorer and living in the western wilderness. When he was 18 years old, Beckwourth decided to seek adventure in the West. Because he was Black, he had a difficult time finding work. In 1823, he found both work and adventure. He joined up with General William Henry Ashley's Rocky Mountain Fur Trading Company.

Living in the wilderness, Beckwourth soon became an expert hunter and fur trader. He quickly became a crack shot, who never wasted a bullet. He learned the ways of the Indians including their languages. He could throw a tomahawk and bowie knife with the best of them.

In 1825, Beckwourth left the trading company and went to live among the Indians for six years. He was asked to join the Crow and Blackfoot Indian tribes. He was adopted by the Crow nation when a woman claimed that he was her long-lost son. The Crows made Beckwourth a chief and called him "Bull's Robe." He fought bravely in many of their tribal wars and became a mighty warrior.

At the age of 40, Beckwourth left his Indian friends and returned to the life of a mountain man. He opened and operated two trading posts. He fought in the Seminole War in 1842 and the war for California in 1846. In 1848, Beckwourth and his Indian wife met General John C. Fremont. Beckwourth was asked to become his chief scout.

In 1850, while on a scouting journey, he made an important discovery. Just a few miles from what is now Reno, Nevada, Beckwourth found a passageway through the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Thousands of settlers, pioneers, and those seeking gold could now reach California through the "Beckwourth Pass." Later, on the way west, the railroads built tracks through this same pass.

Tales of the mountain men are legendary. They helped settle the West. Preferring to live off the land, the mountain men avoided the comforts of city life. Early western writers wrote about heroes like Kit Carson, Davy Crockett and Daniel Boone. However, many writers failed to mention that one of the greatest men of this time was James P. Beckwourth, a Black man. Speaking of Beckwourth, one writer stated, "Probably no man ever lived who had met with more personal adventure and danger..."

In 1866, Beckwourth fought in the Cheyenne War. That same year, James Pierson Beckwourth, at the age of 66, died mysteriously in Denver. At the time, many believed that the Crow Indians poisoned him to keep his powerful spirit with them and return their people to greatness.

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Black History Month

Clara Brown
1803-1885

Often slave families were separated by slave owners and sold for money, never to see each other again. Clara Brown dedicated her life to finding her lost family.

Clara Brown was born a slave in Gallatin, Tennessee, in 1803, but grew up in Kentucky. She later married and had four children. Life for Clara was hard, but she found a way to survive. She found comfort in having her family with her. However, in 1835, most of Clara Brown's family was divided and sold to different slave owners. For the next 20 years, Clara would search for her family, uselessly.

After the death of her owner, in 1858, she paid \$100 toward her freedom. In 1859, gold was found in the mountains of Colorado. The news spread fast that men and women were making fortunes. So began the Colorado Gold Rush. The famed "Fifty Niners," as they were called, came from everywhere just for one reason - to find gold. To some people, gold was not the most important thing to be found in Colorado. Clara Brown had heard that one of her daughters, Eliza, might be there.

Clara Brown found a job as a cook on a wagon train traveling west. She walked most of the 600 mile trip, which took eight weeks to complete. She lived in Denver for a while but later moved to Central City. She worked with the miners in the hope of hearing information about her daughter. She started a very good laundry business. Brown turned her home into a shelter for the homeless. Her home also served as hospital and a church. Because of her kindness, she became known as "Aunt Clara".

After the Civil War, Aunt Clara had saved over \$10,000! Some of the money was used to buy land in Colorado. The rest of the money she used to search for her family. Aunt Clara began her search in Virginia and Kentucky. When she returned to Central City, she had found 34 family members! She also paid the fare for 16 other newly freed slaves. She helped find jobs for many of them.

In 1882, Aunt Clara heard that her daughter, Eliza, was living in a town in Iowa. She was, by this time, almost 80 years old. She was happy because her long journey was now over. Both mother and daughter finally met in a happy, yet tearful, reunion. Many well-wishers and newspaper reporters covered the event.

In 1885, the famous "Aunt Clara Brown" died in Denver, Colorado, at the age of 82. She left a warm feeling in the hearts of all who knew her. Her kindness and charity were famous, as judged by the many friends that attended her funeral. A plaque honoring Clara Brown was placed in the St. James Methodist Church; Clara Brown was believed to have been the first Black settler in the city, and a seat in the city's Opera House was named in her honor.

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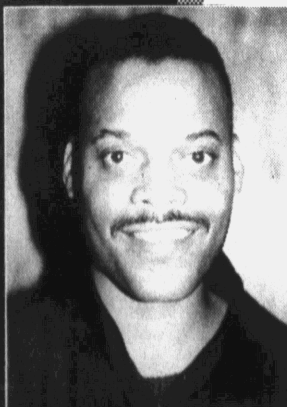
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HEAR YE! HEAR YE!
1. Never miss a chance to keep your
mouth shut.
2. Some people pay a compliment as
if they expected a receipt.
3. Be a fountain, not a drain.
4. One of the greatest victories you
can gain over someone is to beat him
at politeness.
5. Nearly two out of every five
children in the U.S. do not live with
their father.
6. Thirty percent of all U.S. children
are born outside of marriage.
7. Sunday morning is the most
segregated time in America.

8. Could this be you? Whenever
there's a telephone message, you
say, "Just a moment, let me get a
pen/pencil or a piece of paper." Why
not keep a pen/pencil and paper
beside the telephone?
9. A man says what he knows, a
woman says what will please.
10. Never...be mean in anything;
never be false; never be cruel.
11. Do not speak ill of the dead.
12. Do not kick against the pricks.
13. Patience is the best remedy for
every trouble.
14. Practice yourself what you
preach.
15. Nothing can be created from
nothing.



Mrs. Beatrice Maye

OJ, continued from Page 2.

couple often engaged in confronta-
tions after they had both been drink-
ing, the resulting tiffs amounted to
the civil legal act of "contributory
negligence." To which Reiner re-
sponded, "Yea, she didn't duck." The
subject of media bias was first
brought up last month in a column I
wrote for *The Los Angeles Sentinel*/
NNPA where I named the names of
those reporters who I knew were
biased against Simpson. When I
came to the courtroom last week,
one network talk show anchor based

in Fort Lee, N.J., approached me
and thanked me for mentioning his
name in the article. Later he joked,
"If you ever want to quote me, just
spell my name right, R-o-g-e-r C-o-s-
s-a-c-k," spelling out the name of
another talk show host on another
net work. Similarly, Bernard Katz,
the former Superior Court judge who
comments on the trial for a local Los
Angeles station, thanked this writer
for not (and rightfully so) including
his name on that list of biased scribes.
Next year, the civil trial convenes
along the Pacific Ocean. The biased
reporting is certain not to stop. Why?

Mainly because the editors, publish-
ers and owners of these media out-
lets are just as biased as the report-
ers. Mortimer B. Zuckerman, owner
of U.S. News and World Report, is
just such an example. Following the
criminal trial, Zuckerman wrote a
scathing Oct. 16, 1995, editorial
blaming Black America for "getting
Simpson off." He said that Blacks
are used to violence and the verdict
handed down by the predominantly
Black jury was proof positive. When
the bias comes from as high up as
Zuckerman, no wonder the report-
ers are turning in anti-Simpson

news copy. *Dennis Schatzman*, a
former district court judge in Pitts-
burgh, is an NNPA columnist, jour-
nalism professor at California State
University at Fullerton and co author
of *"The Simpson Trial in Black and
White."*

Obituaries

Mr. Harvey Newton

Mitchell's Funeral Home an-
nounces the death and funeral ser-
vice for Mr. Harvey Newton age 76
of 116 West Corbett Avenue
Greenville, N.C. who died Thurs-
day, January 2, 1997 at Pitt Memo-
rial Hospital in Greenville, N.C.

Funeral service were held Sunday
at 2:00 P.M. at Dilda Chapel Free
Will Baptist Church Fountain, N.C.
with the pastor, Elder Melvin Payton
officiating. Burial was in the Sunset
Memorial Gardens in Farmville,
N.C.

Mr. Newton was a native of Pitt
County where he attended the
County schools. He was a member of
Dilda Chapel Free Will Baptist
Church.

He is survived by his wife, Eldress
Maggie M. Newton of the home, 5
daughters; Rosa Walker of
Greenville, N.C., Shirley Latham of
Robersonville, N.C., Linda Newton
of Ashland, Va., Patricia Younger of
Danberry, Ct., and Dorothy Brockett
of Washington, D.C., 3 sons; Harvey
Newton, Jr. of Vineland, N.J., Leroy
Hyman of Greenville, N.C., Linwood
Hyman of Jacksonville, Florida, 1
foster son, Kelly Daniel Mooring of
Princeton, N.J., 3 brothers; Herbert
Newton of Pinetops, N.C. 32 grand-
children, 21 great-grandchildren, 2
great-great grandchildren, a num-
ber of nieces, nephews, other rela-
tives and friends.

For further information concern-
ing this obituary, you may call
Mitchell's Funeral Home in
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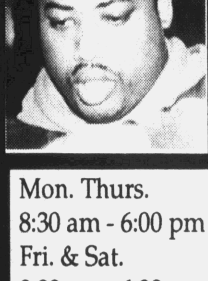
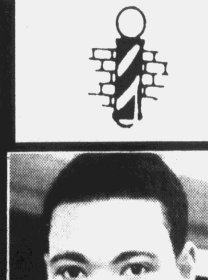
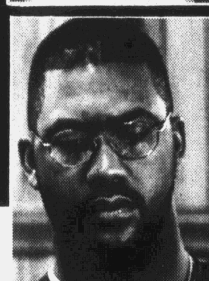
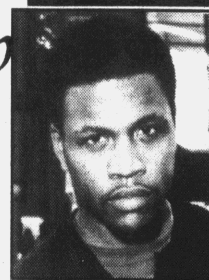
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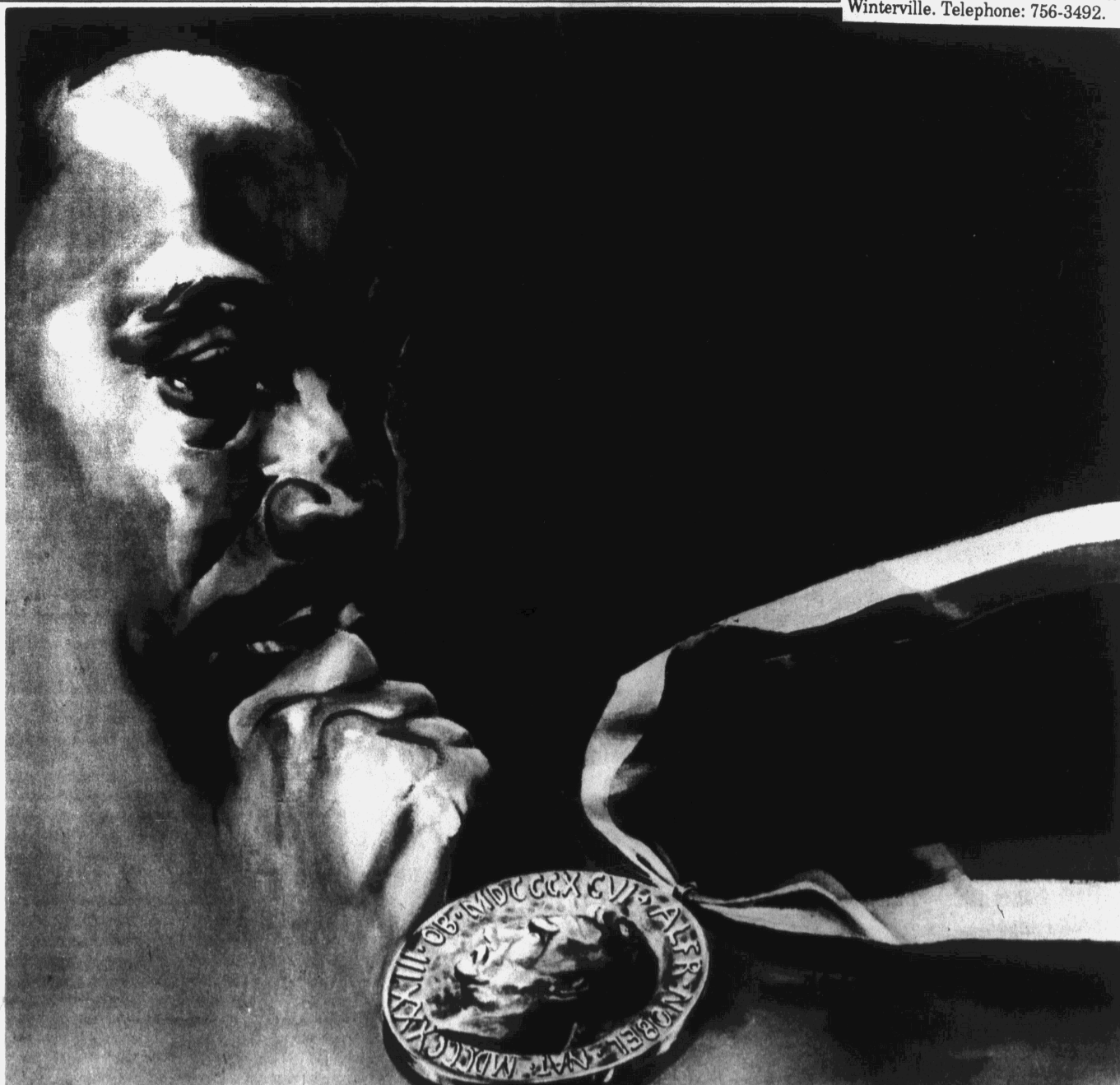
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Continued from Page 3
and two submarines.

Moore's ship supported NATO-Peace implementation forces operating in the Mediterranean and Adriatic seas. While providing this support, USS Supply completed more than 150 underway replenishments, pumped more than 25 million gallons of fuel, transferred more than 3,400 pallets of cargo and 370 pallets of ammunition while alongside U.S. Navy and allied ships.

Moore's ship supports carrier battle groups by supplying ammunition, oil products and stores through underway replenishment, a dangerous operation where sup-

plies are passed from one ship to another across different lines and pulleys or through the use of heli-

copters. Fast combat support ships, like USS Supply, have the speed and armament to make this procedure faster and safer, reducing the

vulnerability of the serviced ship. Moore's ship is the first-ever ship of her class, and was designed as the world's largest gas

turbine ship. During the deployment, Moore visited Bahrain, Greece, Italy, Oman, Sicily, Spain, Turkey and

United Arab Emirates. The 1990 graduate of Ayden-Grifton High School joined the Navy in December 1993.

4-H NOTES

Dale E. Panaro
Extension Agent, 4-H

Parents are often interested in finding the most effective style of education for their children as soon as they begin asking those 'why' questions. Learning is recognized as the key to accomplishing long term goals which will shape a child's future. Choosing learning styles is not a decision that parents can always control but when possible parents can enroll their children in programs which offer optimum learning experiences.

Experiential learning is widely recognized as a 'learn by doing' method. This style of learning involves the child in the activity. After the experience the child can

Continued on Page Six.

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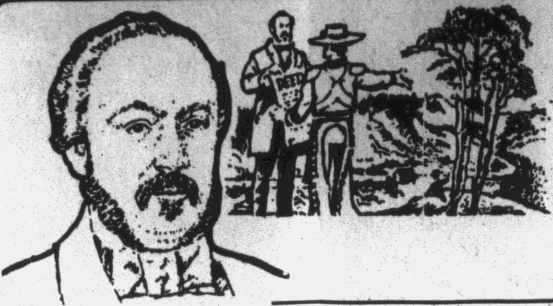
February 9, 1997
4:00 p.m.

**Sycamore Hill, Baptist Church
Greenville, N.C.**

Theme:

**African-Americans and Civil Rights:
A Reappraisal**

**Speaker - Sister Carol Bartrell
Raleigh, N.C.**



**Black History Month
WILLIAM ALEXANDER
LEIDESDORFF
1810-1848**

In the early days of America, California belonged to Mexico. Because of the efforts of a Black American pioneer, California became a part of the United States. William Alexander Leidesdorff was a land owner, diplomat, ship owner, and one of the first Black millionaires in the United States.

Leidesdorff was born in 1810, on St. Croix, in the Virgin Islands. He was one of three sons born to a Danish father and an African mother. He and his brothers went to New Orleans to work in the family's cotton business. Leidesdorff later inherited money from the sale of this business. In 1841, aboard his ship the Julia Ann, he left New Orleans and headed for California.

When he arrived, San Francisco, California, was still a part of Mexico. There were very few city comforts. There were no hotels, stores, or roads. Yet, Leidesdorff was able to get the Mexican government to give him two large pieces of land. He later built a store and a home on the land. He quickly became very popular with the Mexican officials. Wanting more land, he became a Mexican citizen in 1844, and obtained a 35,000 acre ranch. He named his ranch Rancho Rio de Los Americano.

In 1846, the Mexican mayor of San Francisco gave Leidesdorff land within the city. By this time, he was the city treasurer, a council member, and chairman of the school board. Though California was owned by Mexico, the United States and England were both trying to capture the land. Leidesdorff played a key role in the struggle for California.

Though a Mexican citizen, Leidesdorff aided the Americans by telling them about the city's defenses. The American Navy waited off the coast of California. In July of 1846, U.S. Marines landed and took over the city's government. The day before, Leidesdorff warned the citizens what was about to happen. He translated the soldiers orders from English into Spanish for those who did not understand. Two weeks after the invasion, Leidesdorff gave a victory party for the Americans at his home. The Americans allowed him to keep his land, property, and titles.

Leidesdorff built San Francisco's first hotel and opened the state's first public school. He was the first to bring steamboats and horse racing to California. Leidesdorff built a warehouse and leased it to the U.S. government. He also was named American Consul.

Leidesdorff's successful career and fame did not last very long. He died of typhus, or brain fever, on May 18, 1848, at the age of 38. In a brief time, he had become a man of great political power and wealth. His land holdings alone, valued at over \$1.5 million, were later sold for a mere \$75,000. A street in the heart of San Francisco bears his name. William Leidesdorff was truly an historic Black American pioneer.



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(STAFF PHOTO: Jim Rouse)

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Do You Want Your Community Back?

Submitted by: Sandra Boyd
When I lived on the West side of Greenville (on Third Street) and saw some of the things that were happening, I asked myself the following questions: (a) How sick am I of it? (b) How tired am I of it? (c) How long will I be willing to put up with it? (d) Do I want to get involved? (e) Is it any of my business, or do I leave it to the police? (f) Will I be considered a busy-body in others' affairs? (g) Will it be worth it? (h) If I'm going to get involved, what is the first step I should take?

I knew then that I had to take some actions on my own. The following is how I went about it... with GOD leading the way.

I contacted the police sources with names, addresses, license plate numbers, and descriptions of individuals that I knew did not live in my neighborhood, but who had a frequent habit of visiting others who had just moved in the neighborhood.

I listened to what the elderly on my street would tell me had gone on during the day while my husband and I were at work (Such as names—if they knew, what they looked like, and which house they would frequent. The elderly will talk; but, because they fear something might happen to them, they don't want anyone to see them talking to the police.)

Next, I found out who owned these residences and took to the phone book and street and contacted these landlords and informed them that I personally would not put up with what was taking place in my neighborhood. I told them that I would only give them a certain length of time to do something with their tenants (three days max.) and that, if they did not take some action, I would certainly take the matter a step further and go as far as I needed to go because I was sick and tired of it.

If the landlords had not taken any action against their tenant(s) (the ones I contacted did), my next step would have been the Section 8 Office on Broad Street to find out if the tenant(s) were receiving any government assistance to help them with their rent. I was going to report what was taking place in these residences.

If it had gone this far (which it didn't) and Section 8 didn't move fast enough, my plan was to continue to call the landlord and Section 8 everyday until I got some action. If nothing resulted in a week, or maybe two, then I would have contacted the City Council representative for my District and

Continued from Page Four

share the results with others, looks back at the experience and encourages the child to think what they have learned that is important to remember. Ideally the child will further connect the learning to real life situations and finally will use this information in performing another activity or apply to a similar situation. The experiential model of learning is an excellent experience for youth to acquire and retain information. It is appropriate for youth at young ages and it is often utilized in group settings.

The primary steps of experiential learning, experience, share, process, generalize, and apply are easy to relate to the scientific process of acquiring and testing knowledge. This higher level of thinking and acquiring information will be an asset as a child becomes a functioning citizen in the community and society.

The North Carolina 4-H Program has adopted this learning by doing experiential style of learning for youth who participate in 4-H activities. The project materials are currently being reevaluated and redesigned to bring the materials in line with this style of learning. Each child will have the option of selecting projects which interest them and as they utilize the 4-H project material, they will process through the experiential steps. Learning acquired experientially is more complete and retained longer because it is concrete and can be compared to actual real life situations.

The 4-H program is open to youth between the ages of 5 and 19 and offers a variety of learning experiences, clubs, special workshops, camps, school enrichment, and after school programs. Through 4-H youth are encouraged to develop their potential as future citizens and community leaders. For more information about participating in 4-H programs, contact the Cooperative Extension Service at the Pitt County Center, 757-2802.

The only justification for ever looking down on somebody is to pick them up.
—Jesse Jackson

viewed my feeling and complaints. In other words, talk and complain until you see results.

I had no choice but to take the action that I took when an elderly person tells me that they sat on their front porch and watched a very nice-looking young lady put a needle in her vein in broad daylight, right out in the open, as if it were nothing. I had no choice but to take the action that I took when I go to sit on my porch on a nice Saturday night to get some air and, as I walk out of my front door, the first thing I see is a drug deal going down right in my front yard, mid way of the street. I was left no

choice but to take the action that I took when I walked out of my back door and I see drug deals going down in the parking lot of a Church - day and night - with no respect for GOD'S house. I had no choice but to take the action I took when you hear an elderly lady with a sick husband ready to give up their home that they worked and paid for and then get so frustrated that they want to give it all up. It shouldn't have to come to this. When God blessed my husband and me with a home we moved off of Third Street, everyone that I had complained about had moved before we moved.

It was a great feeling knowing that I hadn't just sat by and done nothing. You don't always have to be visible; you can also work invisibly. I do and I plan to continue. I may not live on the West side any longer, but I have an elderly mother, an aunt, and other relatives and associates still on the West side who haven't arrived where I am yet. So I still have a lot of work to do.

The Greenville Police Department can't do it all and we, as citizens, can't do it all, but we all can do something together. We can take one street at a time, one child at a time. We can get one

license plate number a day, one license plate number a week, one license plate number a month. There could maybe even be one person per block designated to take notice of any unusual individuals who start to hang around in our neighborhoods whom they haven't been seeing and whom they know don't live in that particular area who would report such activities to someone they trust. This person can, in turn, report it to the local authorities.

I don't see how any of us can continue to sit by and not be concerned about what has happened on our city in the past several

weeks. I already have a particular street in mine to check on and I already have a source who confides in me about all the illegal activity that is taking place at this very moment. My pad and pen are ready to take down license plate numbers, addresses, descriptions, and landlord names.

We need to remember that GOD has not given us the spirit of fear; but HE has given us the spirit of power, the spirit of love, and a sound mind.

Let's get busy and seek God and let our elderly, our children, and our community know that we all care. Join me!

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Ebonics: Are We Still Making Excuses for the Lack of Skills?

By JIM CLEAVER

All of this furor over the Ebonics issue gets to be a bit much. For the past several weeks, we have listened to the pros and cons of teaching teachers in the Oakland area how to relate to various African American students and the language they use.

Some things ought to be clear by now. Although some of the alleged scholars maintain that there is an Afrocentric language, the bottom line is really kind of simple.

This is the United States of America and the principal language is now and has always been English. This does not preclude the fact that other languages are spoken here and in all probability, will continue to be spoken here. But Ebonics, in my estimation, should not be one of them.

If we examine the use of language in our society, we will see that we have learned to use words that did not always mean what they appeared to mean. This was

done as a means of being able to communicate with each other and not alerting the enemy as to what our plans, thoughts and concerns might have been.

This was done at a time when we considered all non-blacks either an enemy or potential enemy. It had nothing to do with Afrocentrism. It still does not. It is simply a case of not wanting to be accused of trying to 'be White.'

When we realize that men like Rev. Ben Hooks, Johnnie Cochran, Martin Luther King Jr., A. Philip Randolph, Thurgood Marshall, just to mention a few, all came from basically the same background, we can easily see they have more than mastered the language of the land.

None of these men were born rich or given special tutors to teach them to speak English. They went to public schools. They went to Southern colleges, if they went at all. They learned to master the language as well as any Harvard graduate. They did not need any

special instructions about how to talk like black people.

This whole notion that some special classes have to be given to teachers to teach black children how to talk is ludicrous. Did someone teach James Earl Jones how not to sound like a 'po' culud man? What about Roscoe Lee Browne? Or maybe even Paul Robeson?

If that takes you back too far, then try Congressman John Conyers or Mayor Willie Brown. Who can forget the eloquence of the late Barbara Jordan? Or Yvonne Brathwaite Burke? The list is end less and we are steadily making excuses for the lack of skills exhibited by our children. The answer all of this may very well come down to the idea that we have set our standards too low.

Through the years, we have managed to come up to the standards of their general community and in most cases, we have surpassed others. Now all of a sudden, when we are faced with some kind of educa-

tional crisis, we would turn back the hands of time the days when we had to be talked to in pidgin or patois.

First of all, we need to realize we are members of the American society. As such, we must learn the language of that society. The human relations manager at a major corporation is not going to look too kindly on a person who walks into his establishment, seeking employment and unable to speak the prevailing language.

The cold hard fact of the matter is we are Americans. Not Africans. If we choose to become African, then we had best make certain we have some special kind of skill. Then we should apply for immigration to the African nation of our choice.

The next step should then be to spend at least a year learning the language and grammar of that country. Then if we are lucky, we might be admitted on a trial basis as a resident. That however, is not

guaranteed. Africans largely, come to this country to become educated and then to back to their nations and apply whatever knowledge they have acquired. They use the system to their best advantage.

In the meantime, we give, talk trash and make all manner of excuses about the system. It is not the system. It is us. When Africans, Europeans and Asians come to this country as adults and learn the language from scratch, there is no excuse for us, native born and reared, not to become at least as proficient as they are.

We need Ebonics like we need another hole in our heads. What we need are some strong parents who run their homes and some dedicated teachers who understand the problem.

If we are going to win this skirmish, then we need to bet some real men in the game. The punks who now call themselves men are the same ones who allow the children to run over them at will and

they exercise no parental control.

A new language is not what we need. Ebonics is a cute word. It sounds good and intelligent. What it means and what it should mean are two different things. It ought to mean that we have mastered the language of the nation as well as the historical overview of the various languages of our African forebears.

What it seems to mean today, is an excuse for not taking the time to learn or having the guts to take on something might require a little gray matter. The notion of Ebonics defeats all of the years that we have worked to bring our people into the mainstream of society. To be sure, there is racism in our society today.

Further separating us through the spoken or written word defeats the purpose.

In all candor, we need to throw Ebonics out of the window and go back to learning just plain old English.

O.J. II: The Real Cost Of Losing A Child

By DENNIS SCHATZMAN
Contributing Writer

The 18th Century poet Samuel Johnson once said: "If a person says he's doing something not because of the money involved, but for the principle of the thing, it's the money!" Which brings us to the subject at hand. How much are the civil trial plaintiffs going to get from O. J. Simpson should they prevail in this latest "murder" trial? Lawyers for the plaintiffs, the families of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Lyle Goldman, said recently that the punitive and compensatory damages

are worth \$50 million. This seems rather peculiar since it was the Goldmans who have publicly stated that their civil action against Samson had nothing to do with money.

The action is about money, and one should understand that. Since

many people believe the fix is already in on this case (conventional wisdom suggests that this case has the right judge, presiding in the right courtroom buttressed by the right amount of mass media and talk show host support) that one question remains: How much is the loss of love actually worth? The question was posed to a charter member of the American Academy of Economic and Financial Experts during a recent trip to Las Vegas. He responded by citing the Winter, 1995 edition of the Academy-published Journal of Legal Economics which contained two very interesting and pertinent articles on that very subject. In the first article, "The Investment Approach to a Parental Loss in the Death of a Child," economists Thomas R. Ireland and John Ward of the University of Missouri Kansas City, explain that "when parents decide to have a child, they are, in large part, valuing the anticipated

benefits from that child more than the financial costs they expect to bear on behalf of the child. "They explain that if a child is born and lives to be 19 years old, it is anticipated that a parent, or parents, have invested about \$10,000 per year for the care and upkeep of that child at a financial benefit of \$5,208 per year. If a child is "wrongfully killed" at that age or younger, the parent(s) 'loss of future benefits, both financial and emotional is far greater than the child lives to—say—age 58. Ireland and Ward estimate that the earlier a child is wrongfully killed, the greater the financial loss to the parents. They cite, for example, that if a child is born in 1977 and dies wrongfully the next year, based upon a parent's investment of \$10,000 at a real three percent rate of return (estimated at \$17,024) the net loss of the parents is \$242,303. If the child is killed at age 9, at the same rate of invest-

ment, the net loss is \$173,269. Similarly, if the child dies at age 18, the net loss is reduced to \$120,360. In the issue at hand, what would the deaths of Brown Simpson and Goldman be worth financially to their parents at the age they and Goldman be worth financially to their parents at the age they were wrongfully killed, according to the formula established by Ireland and Ward? These experts would say that a 25-year-old waiter would be worth \$87,913. Brown Simpson, who was 35 when she was killed, would have cost her parents \$51,791 in lost financial benefits. Had each of them lived to be age 58 before they were killed, they would have been worth \$22 to their parents. That is, assuming they both worked all their lives at the same rate of current pay. In Goldman's case, it is hard to measure. One can guess that a

25 year-old waiter just making mini mum wage and tips will not always remain a waiter. With Brown Simpson, who only worked a total of two months as a waitress, and two weeks as a sales person, it is harder to measure. In the second article, "The Use of Value of Life Estimates in Wrongful - Death Matters," economists James - Ciecka and Seth Epstein of Depall University in Chicago, correctly deduce that "no amount of compensation" emotionally satisfies a grieving parent." Ciecka and Epstein say that "people with larger incomes have a greater value of life than poor people, and awards based on the value of life may lead to granting richer people more compensation for the lost joy of living than poorer people." There fore, the economists say "the value of life is larger when income is larger." What does that mean in

the case at hand? Although Brown Simpson worked barely more than two months, she did bring O. J. Simpson into the family. The defendant, in turn, put the Brown family in the Hertz Rent A-Car business and paid for the education of Brown Simpson's other sisters. In a civil case like the current one, it is clear to many that O. J. Simpson will lose the case and some compensation will be granted to the plain tiffs. It will not be \$50 million as the plaintiffs envision, but it will be something. In granting an award in a wrongful death suit, there is no attempt to make a victim or dependents whole; it is simply a recognition that every one wrongfully killed is entitled to be compensated equal to the value of a statistical life, assuming, of course, that Simpson is "liable" in the wrongful death of the Brown and Goldman children.

Marvin Gaye: Pride & Joy

His music mesmerized an entire generation. He was the Marvelous One, the Prince of Motown, The Shy Guy. He was Marvin Gaye! Undeniably one of popular music's most enduring icons, Marvin Gaye's musical biography is presented in a two hour radio special available for broadcast on April 1 & 2, 1997 - the anniversary of his untimely death and what would be his 58th birthday. Listen as his colleagues and friends reminisce about this musical genius. Narrated by urban radio news veteran Ron Brewington, there's exclusive interviews with Berry Gordy, Anna Gordy, Smokey Robinson, and Stevie Wonder plus Diana Ross, Mary Wilson, Gladys Horton and more!

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Pastor's Desk, continued from Page 7.

actually engaging themselves with evil spirits. It's more than just a mind altering experience.

When a Black man begins to change his clothing by wearing "thuggish" or "gangster style" clothes combined with an earring, it is normally a sign of a gang activity, criminal activity, and definitely drug use. Parents should be able to identify that right away.

More and more Black men are wearing earrings on their jobs. In essence, they are enslaving themselves right before their employer's eyes. They have found a symbol that has no substance to it.

There is definite connection between drug and Black men wearing earrings. Drug use in the Black community has been on the rise for years, along with violent crime. Something must be done about it.

To write about this phenomenon is just the beginning. Now, Black Americans can know that the ear-

ring thing is more than just a fashion statement. If you look at the problems facing Black men today, you'll see the increase in illiteracy, poverty, full potential in life because they are either killed or placed in jail for killing someone, in most cases, over drugs.

The image of a Black man today as portrayed on TV in most cases is an earring wearing man with gold teeth, dressed in dark clothes and concerned about nothing but rap music, drugs and the world of women. We can't blame Hollywood anymore about the Black man's image. We are doing this to ourselves. And as you sit down and observe Black men today, look at their dress code, their demeanor, their language, their direction, their addictions, you'll see the connection with slavery, rebellion, and drugs.

Prayerfully submitted,
Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr.

SLNI receives \$40,000 grant

The North Carolina Rural Development Center has awarded a \$40,000.00 grant for the fiscal year 1997 to the South Lee Street Neighborhood Improvement, Incorporated. Grant funds will be used for staff support and community development activities.

Founded in 1995, South Lee Street Neighborhood Improvement, Inc. is a non-profit commu-

nity owned and operated development corporation that seeks to eliminate poverty, rehabilitate housing, create jobs, and improve the overall quality of life for South Lee Street neighborhood of Ayden, North Carolina. By working together as a team with the community in equal partnership, South Lee Street Neighborhood Improvement plans to build new housing,

create new jobs, and foster a new sense of community pride.

South Lee Street Neighborhood Improvement's area is two census blocks which covers 40% of the Ayden population and is estimated to include half of the town's buildings. The organization will also seek other funding for various programs and activities.

SLSN's Executive Director, Sherrian Brown said "this is a major building block for us, a really good sign that we are moving in the right direction." Our motto is "We're putting it all together, all we need is you". With the community and SLSNI working together, we will accomplish our goal!

Graham addresses Farm Bureau Federation

WINSTON-SALEM — Current and proposed regulations on farming are making farmer's jobs more difficult, North Carolina Agriculture commissioner Jim Graham said in his address to the Farm Bureau Federation meeting Monday.

Graham pointed to the proposed rules on buffers for river basins, the attempt by individual counties to regulate the livestock industry and the federal estate tax laws which impact farms as examples.

"We, the agricultural family, lake great pride in our honest toils of labor and the return we give to the community," Graham said at the 61st annual meeting held in Winston-Salem. "We help

our neighbors when they are in need. We support our churches, our school and our government. We are good citizens; contributing over \$45 billion to the state's economy. Agriculture cannot be taken for granted. We are the backbone of this economy and one of the few positive trade balance exports."

Graham said solutions to environmental issues, such as requiring buffers along river basins, need to be balanced between doing what is right for the environment and allowing farmers to make a living. The solution needs to involve all contributing parties and not just the agricultural community, he said.

"Farmers are made out to be

the bad guys in the quality issue, while at the same time municipal sewage plants have discharged hundreds of thousands of gallons of raw human waste into creeks and rivers," Graham said. "I'll be the first to admit agriculture has contributed to problems in the Neuse River, but we are not alone. I'm willing to take my share of the responsibility, just as I know you are."

"We need to plant buffers that fit both a conservation plan and a plan for production agriculture. But we cannot sit back and allow agriculture to be the martyr, thinking that eliminating agriculture will cure the Neuse or any other river basin in the state," he said.

A cooperative effort at finding solutions is needed, Graham added.

Graham also unveiled the department's desire to change its name to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to better reflect its mission. The change would have to be approved by state legislators.

"Changing the name better reflects the work the department does on a daily basis," Graham told the gathering. "We service the public's needs in the area of food and drug testing, inspections of gasoline and gas pumps, meat and poultry inspections, structural pest control and other consumer-related area."

Justice makes peace with Medgar Evers in 'Ghost of Mississippi'

By TALISE D. MOORER

Whoopi Goldberg, the hardest working woman in show business, vacates comedic genre to assume the dramatic role of Myrlie Evers, widow of slain civil rights activist Medgar Evers in "Ghost of Mississippi," a feature film released by Castle Rock Entertainment. Joining Whoopi in this deeply penetrating production are Alec Baldwin, assuming the role of Bobby De Laughter, the ingenious district attorney prosecuting white supremacist Byron De La Beckwith, played by actor James Woods.

Craig T. Nelson stars as Ed Peters; Darrell and James Van Evers play themselves in the flick; and Yolanda King, daughter of the late Rev. Martin Luther King, is cast as Reena Evers, Medgar's only daughter. The film opens nationally on Friday, Dec.

20. "Ghost of Mississippi" is a true story about the trial surrounding the murder of Medgar Evers in the driveway of his home in Jackson, Miss. Nearly 30 years would pass before the perpetrator would be brought to justice, a plight kept alive by the persistence of Myrlie Evers. In 1964, an all-white, all-male jury could not render a verdict; however, the second time around was a complete reversal.

"I loved playing the role of Myrlie. She's a deep, likeable person who kept the light going. Myrlie's friendship with Bobby De Laughter took some time to develop. She made Bobby earn her trust, every smile, and every hello. I was amazed at this woman's strength, covering a span of 30 years, and I wanted to be a part of something that says the system can work," stated Whoopi.

The idea of making a major feature film around the Medgar Evers case was initiated by producer Frederick Zollo ("Mississippi Burning"). On a visit to Jackson, Miss. during the 1994 trial, Zollo attempted to attend the verdict but could not do so due to its overflow crowds.

Frind and Pulitzer prize winning author Willie Morris witnessed most of the proceedings and suggested to Zollo that the story of the trials would make an uplifting motion picture.

What adds depth to the film is the meticulous preparation of the cast. Alec Baldwin actually visited Mississippi to meet with Bobby De Laughter to discuss how he felt while conducting the trial. "When I met Myrlie, I found that she was not like others who grieved over a homicide.

At first I was curious. As I

learned more about the injustices, I wanted to take the case," stated Bobby De Laughter. Three major moments for me during the process were: meeting Myrlie Evers, finding crime scene photos, and ultimately coming up with the murder weapon.

At times I was afraid of what may happen to my children and whether I was putting them at risk, since I was awarded custody of my kids following a nasty divorce. I was hounded by extreme groups of people about this case; one group pressing for justice regardless of the evidence, and the others becoming irate that we would consider reopening the case," adds De Laughter. In summation, "Ghost of Mississippi" is a familial, historical piece of work and should be supported by the community at large as a step away from films comprising "Black exploitation."

South lost the Civil War and must not win the flag war

By REV. DR. E. GAIL ANDERSON HOLNESS
The first shots of the Civil War were fired in South Carolina. The Southern troops rallied under the banner of the Confederate flag, and the battle was lost. Lives were lost, property was destroyed and a racial divide was formed. In 1962,

the South Carolina legislature voted to place the Confederate flag on the dome of the State Capital building in Columbia, S.C.. The flag flies in what is deemed a place of honor just below, the United States flag and the Official State flag of South Carolina. Recently, the governor of South Carolina,

proclaimed that he had conferred with God and received a revelation that the flag was racially divisive. The governor proposed to bring the flag down from the State Capitol Building and place it in the front of the building next to a Confederate soldier's statue. While it is honorable for the governor to

compromise to bring the flag down, many now believe that the flag will be even more divisive. Sort of an "in your face" kind of thing. Many people had to look up to see the flag on top of the building, now all they have to do is look straight ahead and it is directly in their faces. Biblical scripture teaches us that we must be as wise as a serpent and calm as a dove. While it may seem like a victory for proponents of the flag removal, there are some issues that remain unsolved. The flag is deemed a symbol of racism and hate to many. It is used by the Ku Klux Klan and many white supremacist groups, not only in South Carolina, but throughout this country. The recent guilty verdict rendered in the case of the Caucasian couple who beat a nine-year-old African-American boy. The two years the jury sentenced them to, only 6 to 8 months will more than likely be served. (Was justice really present?) Can you imagine what the sentence would have been if it had been the reverse, African-American couple guilty of beating 9-year-old white boy; the drive-by shooting in Pelion, S.C. by two young angry Caucasian men who had just left a Klan rally, held in



Sharing "INSIGHTS ON BONE MARROW" are these two very talented, capable ambassadors... Sister Marlene Anderson (L) and Connie Gorham-Walston (R). They can be heard on Radio Station WOOW weekly as they share information about this dreadful sickness. They solicit and welcome your support.

(STAFF PHOTO: Jim Rouse)

Continued on page II

We Salute His Dream

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Pastor of Apostolic Church of Faith and National SCLC Board Member
Elizabeth City, North Carolina

Inspirational Selections: Gospel Ensembles of Apostolic Church of Faith and
Fresh Anointing Choir of Philippi Church of Christ

MONDAY, JANUARY 20 - 12 NOON

Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church

1095 Allen Road

SPEAKER: Rev. Gregory Taylor

First Baptist Church

Bladenboro, North Carolina

YOUTH PROGRAM

12 NOON - 2:00 PM

Philippi Church of Christ

1610 Farmville Boulevard

2:30 PM "Poorman's Feast"

East Carolina University - 6:00 PM

Candlelight Vigil and March (College Hill to Hendrix Theatre)

Hendrix Theatre - 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: Attorney Bernadine Ballance

Inspirational Selections: East Carolina University Gospel Choir

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Auditions for Musical Play



The Secret Garden

Smiles & Frowns Playhouse • Greenville, North Carolina

Smiles & Frowns Playhouse, Pitt County's non-profit children's theatre group has announced auditions for the delightful musical "The Secret Garden" by Tim Kelly with music and lyrics by Bill Francoeur. Approximately 30 roles will be available for children aged 5 to 17.

Of these roles, there are 21 speaking parts available. Other roles cast will not be speaking parts.

Auditions will take place at Wahl Coates School on Fifth Street. Grades 6 - 12 will audition on Wednesday, January 15 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM and Grades K - 5 will on Thursday, January 16th also from 4-6 PM. Youngest children should come prepared to recite a small poem & sing a nursery rhyme. Everyone else will need to sing a song. Those wishing to sing a specific song are required to bring their own sheet music with them. All children are requested to bring a picture of themselves which will not be returned. Scripts will be available at the Shepard Memorial Main Branch for perusal.

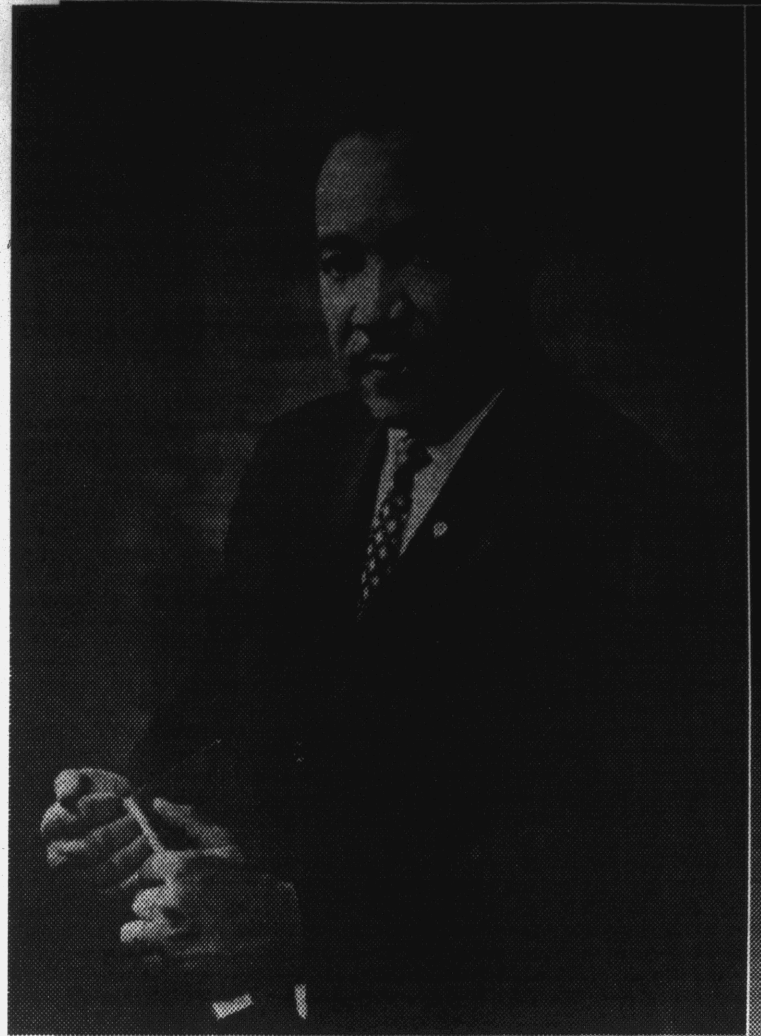
Directing, this year's Spring production will be Janie Brookshire, a senior theatre student at Rose High School. An alumnus of Smiles & Frown Theatre, Janie has been actively involved in theatre at Rose, having directed a student play and performed in many productions with the Rampant Theatrical Company. The Musical Director for Garden, Edie Snider is a music teacher with Pitt County Schools and Smiles & Frowns alumnus as well, having directed all but two of the theatre group's musicals throughout the years. Edie brings a wealth of musical experience to the stage and has created musical miracles from play to play!

Once cast, rehearsals will be held at Whahl Coates on Mondays through Thursdays from 4:00 to 5:30 PM with the exception of the last week of rehearsal when the cast will move to DH Conley for early evening rehearsals. The production itself will be held on Friday, March 14th and Saturday, March 16th.

Anyone interested in more information on this play or Smiles & Frowns please contact Ilene Cox at 752-3247 or Andrea Croskery at 756-4959.

"The Secret Garden" is being produced by special arrangements with Pioneer Publishing company.
For Information **752-3247**

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Black History Month

Paul Cuffee

1759-1817

During slavery, most Blacks wanted their freedom granted in America. However, some Blacks felt that it would be better to leave and return to Africa. People who favored this back-to Africa idea were called "colonists." Paul Cuffee was an early pioneer of this movement. He also became a wealthy ship builder and landowner.

Paul Cuffee was born near New Bedford, Massachusetts, in 1759. He was the seventh of ten children born to Cuffee Slocum and Ruth Moses. His father was an ex-slave, and his mother was an Indian. Paul's father died when he was only 13 years old. He and his brother later sold their family farm. Paul then decided to use his father's first name CUFFEE and became known as Paul Cuffee.

Cuffee had always loved ships and the rugged life of the sea. He taught himself to read and write so that he could learn about sailing large ships. At the age of 16, Cuffee went to sea. Most of his trips were along the eastern coast of America. In 1783, at age 24, he married Alice Pequit, who was a member of his mother's Indian tribe. They later had six daughters and two sons.

On one sailing voyage, near the start of the American Revolution, Cuffee was captured by the British. When he was released, three months later, he returned to his family. From the money he earned while at sea, he bought a farm for \$3,500. He later decided to build his own ships. He became a merchant and trader. Cuffee built five ships, but lost them and their cargo to pirates. Through it all, his business still grew.

Following the American Revolution, Captain Cuffee, as he was now known, built a major shipping company. In 1810, Cuffee and a business partner built the 109-ton *Traveller* and the 268-ton *Alpha* ships. With his great wealth, he also bought a large amount of land.

Cuffee, although rich himself, was troubled about the problems facing most Blacks in America. He built a school on his farm in Massachusetts, hired teachers, and opened it to the public. Captain Cuffee and his brother helped pass a law giving free Blacks in Massachusetts the same rights as Whites. The federal government would later pass similar laws for the entire Black population in America.

Most Blacks in early America lived under the cruel laws of slavery. There were efforts, however, by both Black and White persons of good will to change the laws and end slavery. However, some people still believed that it would be better for Blacks to leave America and return to Africa. Paul Cuffee, because of his worldly experience, also believed that this was a quick solution to the problem of slavery.

In 1810, a group of colonists, called the Society of Friends, made it possible for Captain Cuffee to sail to the African country of Sierra Leone. He was to study whether colonization could work. Upon returning to America, he gave the Society a favorable report.

On December 5, 1815, along with 38 Blacks, Captain Cuffee sailed the *Traveller* back to Sierra Leone. He also paid the fare for 30 of his passengers. Cuffee stayed with the settlers for three months before returning to America. He was convinced that the settlement would be a success and began planning for his return. Unfortunately, Paul Cuffee became ill and died on September 9, 1817, at the age of 58.

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Letter writer credits WOOW's Jim Rouse for his genuine concern, valuable service to the community

The recent murders of four black males in West Greenville should bring us to our knees in prayer. God's people of all races must unite together in intercessory prayer for our city and our nation. Prayer is without a doubt a Christian's greatest weapon to combat evil. Often God instructs us to put legs on our prayers in the form of direct

action, and all too often we don't respond. In light of this, I felt it appropriate to pay tribute to the owner of WOOW radio, Jim Rouse. The recent radio forum was organized by Bro. Rouse, providing a two hour commercial-free session. We should all be appreciative of this businessman who has a genuine concern for the community.

The radio forum was not the first valuable service initiated by Jim Rouse, and I feel certain it wasn't the last. This white brother thinks its time to give credit where credit is due.

Patrick Nelson
P.O. Box 7005
Greenville, NC 27835

Letter to the Editor

To Whom May Concern,

In the name of Jesus, I pray and ask of you; that if you could air this testimony and blessing that I have received from our Heavenly Father, in hope and blessing that it would encourage the one's that's living in the darkness, to be brought to light. For God is the way, the truth, and the light. Amen.

First, but the most and only; I think God for waking me up this morning to praise His name as well as to listen to (1340 WOOW) gospel radio station and spiritual guidance to gain knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. Most of all to keep serving Christ fervently.

My name is Lennie Phillips, a native of Greenville, N.C.. For older, but mostly younger generation who's learning; God is the answer and the best policy to save your lives from this world of destruction, which Satan is playing the betrayal of it. Let me tell you my brothers and sisters, and I'm speaking of all races, because I can't get through our Lord Jesus, if I don't have the love for everyone as God wilt, I've learned through Jesus, that no matter how compli-

cated things get, with the way of life today, you can always believe and renew your heart and mind in God. I was born into a trouble family of negligence, abuse, abandon, and never felt loved. I ended up in 2 different foster homes, and was mistreated as well. I've experienced emotional depression from past relationships as well as marriage, of which the thought occurred in my mind to commit suicide. I've been to prison twice and now I'm back again for the third time and for robbery. For 31 years, from remembrance of my childhood, all I've ever wanted was someone's undivided attention, love, devotion, and moral support, but never found it.

From May of '96, until December 13, 1996, the day I was arrested; I found myself being alone, because the people I reached out and helped, wouldn't help me in time of need. Even my own mother who's living in New Jersey, who abandoned me twice, abandoned me again. Being frustrated, confused, emotionally depressed, and stressed out, caused me to start doing drugs and I felt no need for living anymore.

So what I'm saying is; no matter

how difficult the situation gets, God can fix it, if you accept Christ into your life by believing that He arisen on the third day to try and save the world by dying on the cross for our sins and temptations. Also to repent of your sins. I realize all those years seeking for someone just to love me, I was searching in the wrong direction. Now I'm in the right direction, because I accepted Christ in my life and he has blessed me to touch hearts of others and turned their lives around by preaching the words of life and abling my brothers to submit to Jesus Christ. Amen. I can still use some spiritual guidance as well as encouragement, also; a friend or someone I can communicate with because even though I have God; I still would like to hear from anyone since I don't hear from no one else. God Bless You All!

Write to Lennie Phillips - 124
New Hope Rd
Greenville, N.C. 27834

Seaman McCall returns

January 9, 1997 (FHTNC) — Navy Seaman Kenneth McCall, son of Myrtle McCall of 405 Raleigh Ave., Greenville, N.C., recently returned from a six-month deployment aboard the fast combat support ship USS Supply.

Home ported in Norfolk, Va., McCall was one of more than 550 Sailors aboard the ship who trav-

eled more than 38,000 miles while operating with the USS Enterprise Battle Group. The battle group included eight tactical aircraft squadrons, seven combatant ships and two submarines.

McCall's Ship supported NATO-peace implementation forces operating in the Mediterranean and

Continued on Page 11.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH FEB. 1 - FEB. 28



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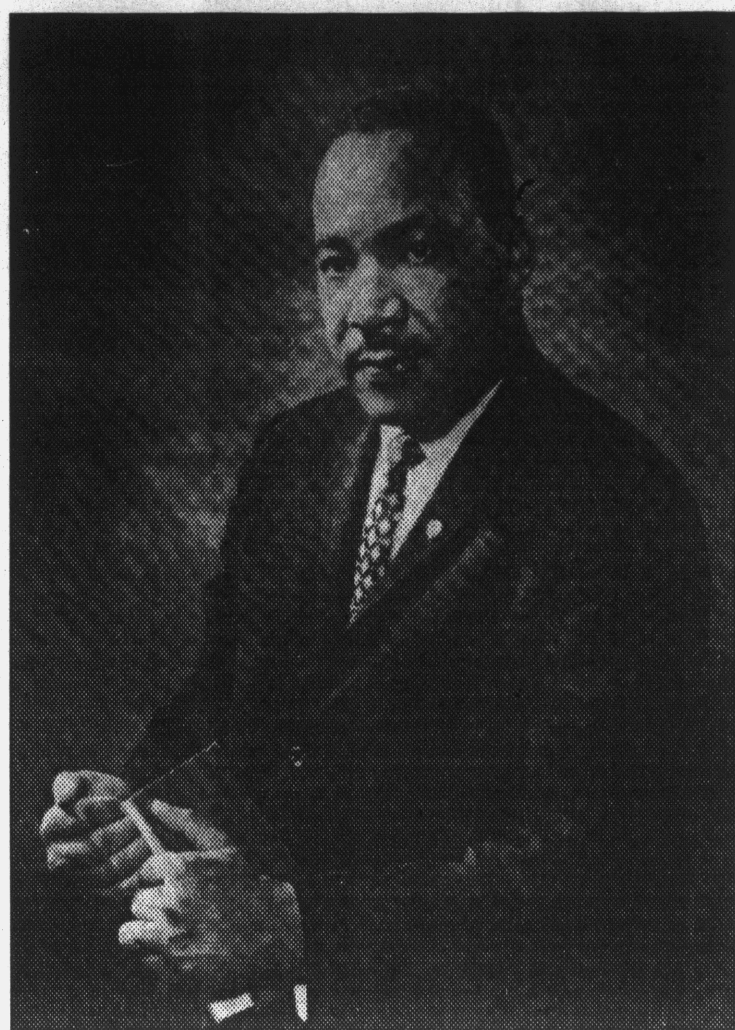
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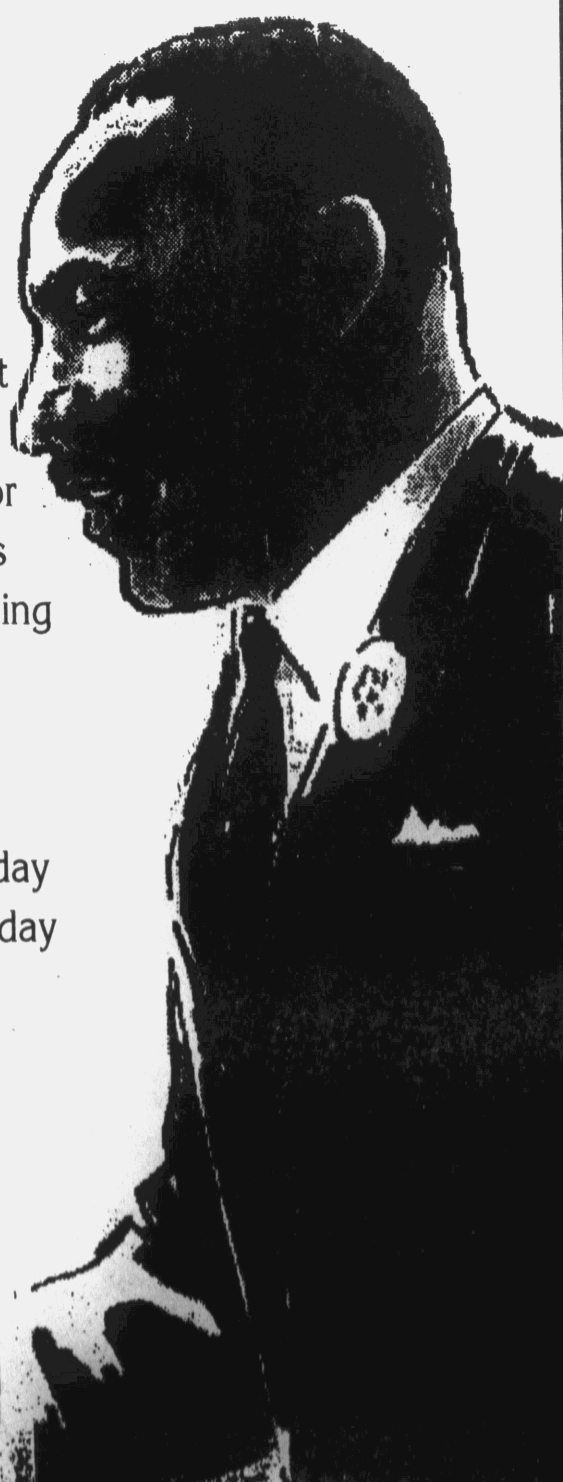
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South Lost The War, continued from Page 8.

favor of keeping the flag on the dome. These young men shot four African-American youth. South Carolina has been the victim of more than 42 church burnings which were racially motivated. Texaco, Avis, we could cite instance after instance of racist acts. Racism is alive and doing well in the United States and it needs to be put to rest. The root of the problem is not whether the flag is a symbol of honor, because to some it is, the real issue is where it should be placed. Many South Carolina Caucasian politicians have noted their ancestral heritage to the Confederacy. There are many South Carolina African-Americans who fought against the confederacy and its oppressive mentality. My great grandfather, Joseph Alexander Ballard, was a native of Columbia, S.C., the son of a slave/former slave, who went to Beaufort, S.C. and joined the Union Army. He was once removed from the shackles of slavery and fought against the very thing the Confederate flag represents to many, (slavery and hatred). I believe he would be in favor of removing the flag from the top of the dome. One of my favorite biblical scriptures states, "If my people which are called by my name would humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I would hear from heaven, and would forgive their sins, and heal their land." The South lost the Civil War in the 1800s, let's win the race war in the 1900s, take the flag down and place it in a spot where its historical value can be appreciated by those who have emotional ties to what the flag symbolizes (a lost war, and honor for those who gave their lives, for their beliefs). Put it in a place.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"THOUGHTS OF LOVE"

May the peace, joy, and happiness of life be with us all this Christmas Day. May all our doubts and fears be blaming each other for our problems and the wisdom to check ourselves first. Let us remember that we pay a price for the "lessons" that we "learn" in this life and that, no matter how smart or tough we think we are, we can be had.

The race of life is not won by the swift and greedy. Let us be the same... whether we live in abundance or poverty. No one is perfect; people are all human and make mistakes. Replace in our hearts a desire to know each other better; life is too short to waste time on things we can't change. We should think positively about today, for tomorrow is not promised to anyone.

To lose the one you truly love is painful. No one ever told us about the stages and emotions we should pass through during this loss... shock, emotional turmoil, emptiness, loneliness, depression, loss of sleep, lack of appetite, being so deeply involved with your thoughts and feelings. Everything around you loses all your attention. Deep preoccupation best describes the state of mind; often finding yourself seeking escape from pain—doing anything to escape being "alone", but no matter what, you'll still feel lonely and miss that special person.

Love is like death; it's a part of life that either is or will be common to us all. So if you have someone you love... remember the things you did to get that person, continue this to keep the love. Always tell your mate you love them; always talk in a nice and humble way for a better understanding, and help in every way you can. Sacrifice some things; don't be a complainer or criticize each other, especially if your mate is striving to do their best. Encourage each other. Never end your "quality" time... use it to love each other better. Be ravished with each other's love and feelings at all times. Never let anger build up against each other. Build your house on love and respect. Never talk about each other badly to people. Always say good things which will build up your character and love for each other. Love can be known only from the action it prompts. Whatever we do for our loved one—whether big or small—no matter how great it may seem, if it is not done in love, it will profit us nothing!!!

Submitted by:
Leroy Windley of Beaufort
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where it can never be torn down or burned. Where its story can be retold to the generations to come. Maybe then we can work toward healing our land.

Please send comments to: P.O.

Box 8836 Columbia, South Carolina 29202. *Rev. Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness is an ordained Baptist minister, nationally known civil rights activist and resides in Columbia, South Carolina.*

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(Autobiography) Ballantine
ISBN: 0-345-41985-X \$26.00



The Humble Warrior
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After twice winning the two weight title, boxer Evander Holyfield's career ended in a heart irregularity. Had something special in store that would allow the humble to step back into the ring. Here, Holness tells his story of his physical and spiritual journey.
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As featured on cover
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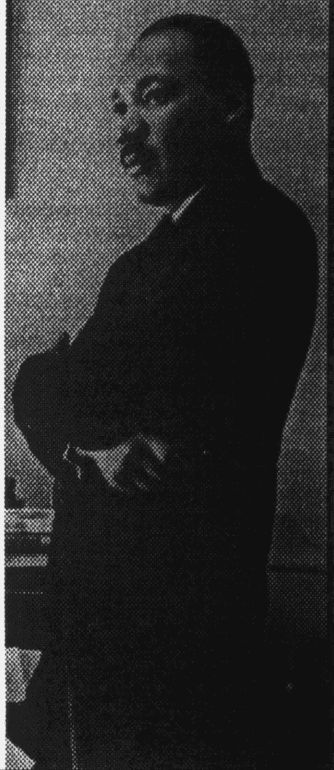
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(STAFF PHOTO: Jim Rouse)



ANTONIO ORTIZ, the newest addition to the staff of Radio Station WTOW, JOY 1320 in Washington. We're glad to have Brother Ortiz aboard the "JOY" crew.

(STAFF PHOTO: Jim Rouse)



1996: Ron Brown, the CIA, Tupac, and O.J.

By EMANUEL PARKER
Staff Writer

African Americans across the nation were stunned in August when the San Jose Mercury News published a three-part series that alleged the CIA was aware that Contras were selling drugs to street gangs in South Central Los Angeles. The charges sent shock waves through the nation's black communities and outraged elected officials, community leaders and, concerned citizens joined in demanding federal, state and local investigations.

CIA Director John Deutch met with a raucous crowd here in Los Angeles in November and vowed to conduct a full investigation. Then Deutch was out as CIA head and his, successor, National Security Advisor Anthony Lake, has yet to make a similar commitment.

While B-list celebrities from Loni Anderson to Pamela Anderson Lee brought scattered attention to Superior Court in 1996, it was a drop in the ocean compared to "O.J. by the Sea." The only case worthy of its own media encampment, the O.J. Simpson wrongful death trial in Santa Monica held just about every local news agency and dozens from out of town in thrall for the last half of the year.

"O.J. II" gave "Kato" Kaelin a second chance at fame, made Americans face the quiet ramifications of a gag order and put the phrase "ugly-ass shoes" in the vernacular.

More significantly, the defendant took the stand for the first time, and testified not only that he didn't kill his ex-wife Nicole and her friend Ronald Goldman, but

never beat her as the plaintiff's alleged.

The case will start again Jan. 6, with an off-day scheduled for Jan. 7. Simpson is expected to return to the stand next month, followed by rebuttal testimony, closing arguments, instructions and deliberations. U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown was

leading a delegation of American business leaders on a trip promoting investment in the former nation of Yugoslavia in April when his Air Force plane crashed, killing him and 32 others. An Air Force investigation into the cause of the crash ended the careers of several high ranking Air Force officers. Last year saw Compton City Councilwoman Pat Moore convicted by a racially-mixed jury of taking nearly \$50,000 in bribes, after claiming she was entrapped and targeted for prosecution because she is black.

She intends to appeal her conviction, and to demand a congressional inquiry into the government's investigation of political corruption in Compton.

Former Rep. Walter Tucker, D-Compton, who was convicted last year of taking \$30,000 in bribes in the same sting that netted Moore, also claimed, to be a victim of government entrapment. He called the case against him "a setup from the beginning." He is serving a 27-month sentence.

After waiting 25 years, former Black Panther Party leader Elmer "Geronimo" Pratt was granted a hearing to determine if there is enough new evidence to grant him a new trial.

Pratt, 49, was convicted in 1972 of shooting Caroline Olsen to death on a Santa Monica tennis court and of critically wounding her husband during a December 1968 robbery that netted \$18. Pratt has always claimed he was at a Panther meeting in Oakland when the crime occurred.

The hearing, which will resume after the holidays, began Dec. 16 in Santa Ana before Orange County Superior Court Judge Everett W. Dickey. Johnnie Cochran is representing Pratt and the hearing is focusing on recent revelations about key prosecution witness, Julius "Julio" Butler, a former Panther and former Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy who testified that Pratt confessed the Olsen murder to him. Also in '96, the final chapter to one of the most divi-

sive periods in Los Angeles history was written when U.S. District Judge John G. Davies declined to send former Los Angeles Police Department officers Stacey Koon and Laurence Powell back to prison. Davies, whose lenient sentence of the two men was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, ruled the officers convicted of violating Rodney King's civil rights need not spend any more than the 30 months in federal prison they had served.

Popstar Michael Jackson made a brief appearance in federal court last year, popping in for one day to testify that he never promised to appear on a Jackson family TV special that ended in millions of dollars in losses for the producers. The case ended in a mistrial. Former Rams defensive star Darryl Henley, convicted months earlier in Santa Ana for helping ship cocaine cross-country, found himself in more legal hot water, this time in Los Angeles.

He admitted conspiring to kill his cheerleader ex-girlfriend, who had testified against him in Orange County, and the federal judge who presided at the trial. He now faces 41 years in federal prison.

The guard who gave Henley a cellular telephone to plot the murders decided to go to trial, and was convicted in November. Rodney Anderson claimed he helped Henley because he was threatened by Marion "Suge" Knight's brother. Ron Knight, was indicted with Henley and Anderson, but the charges were dismissed and his case was sealed.

"Suge" Knight's legal troubles are far from over, though.

Federal prosecutors want his probation for firearms trafficking revoked because he allegedly smoked marijuana in violation of the terms of his supervised release. Knight's probation on a state court assault case already has been revoked, which could mean trouble for his pioneering Death Row rap music label.

Weeks before his latest legal problems, Knight survived a

drive by shooting in Las Vegas that left Tupac Shakur, one of Death Row's top performers, fatally wounded. There also was mixed news for African Americans on the education front.

On the same day as a landmark settlement of a class-action lawsuit requiring the district to begin over hauling its special education programs was approved, Superintendent Sid Thompson announced he would be stepping down as head of the nation's second-largest public school district when his contract expires in June. Thompson, who became the district's first black superintendent in 1993, said it is time to move on after more than 40 years with the Los Angeles Unified School District.

The 65-year-old administrator and former teacher said the job had grown increasingly demanding and that he could not see himself handling it as he approaches 70.

"I'd like to think I'm Superman, but I'm not," he said.

The Board of Education has started a nationwide search for a successor, despite protests from Latino parents, students and community activists who want Ruben Zacarias, Thompson's deputy, appointed. The reasoning is that the district is overwhelmingly Latino, so Zacarias should get the job. The board also began to implement other changes as well, adopting a revised "master plan" for English language learners, developing new academic standards for student performance and adopting a new standard test to replace the older Comprehensive Test for Basic Skills. But CTBS scores released in December showed that district students continued to lag behind the national averages. Scholastic Assessment Test scores rose an average 3.5 points, but were still well under national averages.

The district also experienced tragedy in 1996.

On Feb. 22, Figueroa Street Elementary School teacher Alfredo Perez was struck in the head by a stray bullet from a

gang shooting while standing before his fifth-grade class.

Perez survived, but he suffered brain damage that required him to begin an extensive rehabilitation. The incident led to another symbol of the troubled '90s—installation of bulletproof windows at the school.

The trial of two teen-agers charged in the shooting ended in a mistrial in October 7, after a chief witness equivocated on what he had told authorities earlier. A retrial is under way in Compton.

In other judicial proceedings, a judge ordered a free-lance journalist to pay Michael Jackson damages for telling "Hard Copy" he had seen a video of the pop star molesting a teen-age boy.

Death Row Records loomed large in the city's criminal courts system in 1996, beginning with Snoop Doggy Dog's acquittal in a murder case and ending with the rap label's co-founder jailed for assault.

It was Feb. 20 when Snoop, also known as Calvin Broadus, left the Criminal Courts Building in a Rolls-Royce, having been cleared with bodyguard McKinley Lee of the 1993 shooting death of a gang member in Palms.

The 24-year-old rapper and father of a 2-year-old boy went on to enjoy more commercial success, with the top selling album "The Doggfather." But the good fortune didn't last for the billion dollar label.

In September, Death Row lost a big moneymaker when the late Tupac Shakur was fatally shot in a gangland-style drive-by shooting in Las Vegas.

And by November, the 300 plus-pound man who had been driving the BMW that Shakur was riding in, Death Row co-founder Marion "Suge" Knight, was on his way to prison.

The reputed former gang member was convicted of violating his probation on a 1995 assault conviction for joining Shakur in a brawl a few hours before the rap star was fatally wounded.

Knight spent the holidays be-

hind bars awaiting sentencing, while federal authorities investigated his company for possible links to street gangs, money laundering and drug trafficking. And by year's end, Shakur's mother, who last week won a court battle forcing Death Row and two other firms to stop selling unauthorized Tupac gear, had hired an independent auditor to see if the label shortchanged her son his royalties.

According to reports, Shakur owed his label \$4.9 million at the time of his death, despite CD/cassette sales of more than \$60 million.

Other long-running criminal cases were finally resolved in 1996. It was Halloween, three years to the day that they had slaughtered a trio of trick-or-treating boys in Pasadena, that three gang members learned of their fate—death. Lorenzo Newborn, 25, Herbert McClain, 26, and Karl Holmes, 20, had been convicted in December 1995 of the ambush, mistaken identity murders. With the O.J. Simpson civil trial miles away in Santa Monica, there was little evidence left of the 1995 "trial of the century." But that changed briefly in early October.

Former LAPD Detective Mark Fuhrman resurfaced, leaving his new home in Idaho to plead no contest to perjury. The charge: lying when he testified in Simpson's criminal trial that he had never in the previous 10 years used the word "n____," to describe a black person.

Attorney General Dan Lungren said the vilified investigator who went over the wall of Simpson's Rockingham estate to find a bloody glove "is now a convicted felon and will forever be branded a liar." The renewed focus on the Simpson case couldn't have come at a worse time for District Attorney Gil Garcetti. He barely managed to turn back a challenge by Deputy District Attorney John Lynch in a race that sharply divided the office and led to the 'relocation' of several deputies who supported Lynch.

Whitener appointed to Board

Tammy Suggs Whitener, a Greenville native has been appointed by the Board of Directors at the State Employee's Credit Union to serve a two year term on the Greenville Advisory Board. The Advisory Board serves as a liaison between the members of the Credit Union and the Board of Directors. The Board makes a large contribution toward the expansion of membership and improvement of services.

Ms. Whitener is a North Carolina A and T State University graduate. She has been employed with the North Carolina Department of Transportation as a Right of Way Agent for 10 years. If you have any concerns or comments feel free to contact me.



From the Pastor's Desk "BLACK MEN AND EARRINGS - FASHION OF IDOLATRY"

As we look at the state of Black America today, it almost seems as if one Black murder is destroying our future and sending many of our young people to an early grave. Gang violence and crack cocaine are destroying our neighborhoods, our schools, and many young lives. The increase in teenage pregnancies and single parent households are guaranteeing poverty for another generations of youths.

In 1995, Back-on-Black murder was so brutal in New Orleans (at one point 21 people were killed in one week) that Mayor Morial himself thought the city may have been under a curse. And if there is any physical sign of a curse among Black men, one may easily find a connection with Black men wearing earrings.

Besides being a symbol of Slavery, research shows that men wearing earrings is also a sign of idolatry and witchcraft, which also means idol worship and drug use, respectively. Today, many Black men are making those connections very obvious with their association with crime and drugs. When one thinks of idolatry, immediately false gods and false religions come to mind. In essence, that's what is really going on. Many of our young people caught up in gangs and drug activities are in open rebellion to their parents,

law enforcement officials, God and this country.

If idolatry, is related to false gods and worship of evil things, just think about what happens when Black youths, clad with earrings and dark, baggy clothes make a commitment to gangs. They make a pledge for violence, murder, rebellion and toward every evil thing. The other side of idolatry is deception. Many Black men today are operating under a major force of deception. Under such deception, many Black men believe they're in a war, a war with each other over territory they don't even own. But, for some reason, they don't mind dying for it. It's almost as if they live to die or live to kill. For many of them their life's agenda is three-fold:

- * KILL...
- * STEAL...
- * and to DESTROY.

The Connection Between Earrings and Idolatry in Genesis 35:1-4, Jacob is about to travel to a place called "Bethel", which means "House of God". He was going there to renew his covenant with God. He commanded all those traveling with him to "put away strange gods that were among you and be clean and change your garments". It was very common in those days in Eastern culture to

Hampton University has the highest graduation rate among large, historically black colleges, according to the autumn issue of the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education. Fifty-three percent of the university's students earn their diplomas within six years, a rate that outpaces 17 other historically black colleges nationwide. The survey was based on a report that ranked graduation

Hampton Leads Black Colleges

After going through the financial struggles from having a sick child to care for, Marlene Anderson and Connie Gorham-Walston established The Bone Marrow Foundation of Eastern North Carolina. This Foundation is a non profit organization that will help families with members that are stricken with Leukemia or Aplastic Anemia. There are a lot of needs to be considered such as

use earrings and nose rings in different forms of idolatry. Many people in those days carried little handmade idols carved out of wood. Today, many Black youths use their own version of idols; earrings, nose rings, hair picks in their hair, gold teeth, medallions, tattoos, and gangster style clothes. These are some of the outward signs that they are involved in a system of crime, rebellion, murder, hate and they do it religiously. To the point where many of them can't even sleep unless they commit some evil deed. Black men today want to dress in a manner that identifies with crimes, gangs, rappers, and every evil thing.

EARRINGS AND DRUG USE (WITCHCRAFT)

Another symbol of Black men wearing earrings is witchcraft, also known as sorcery. Witchcraft, is derived from the Greek word, "pharmakon", which means "drug". Illegal drugs are destroying Black America. Black men are dying everyday from the crack cocaine epidemic. When Blacks, or any race of people are involved in drugs, research shows they are

rates for students and student athletes at 305 NCAA Division I colleges. "I really think it's due to the teaching-learning environment that's created at Hampton," said Elnora Daniel, the university's executive vice president and provost. "There's a definite plan for mentoring our students and creating a nurturing environment." Carlton Brown, vice president of planning, said

monthly bills, gas, food etc. We are trying to make it as easy as possible for families that are really going through difficult times. Families should not have to worry about finances when trying to deal with sickness. We have experienced these things first hand and we know how hard it is. There are a lot of Foundations out there, but none that

the 53 percent graduation rate is actually lower than the rate in the previous three years, falling 5 percentage points from 1994. Ms. Daniel said the university has also received grant money in the past four years geared toward student retention, which allows the Virginia-based university to provide additional tutoring by faculty members. Although Hampton's graduation

support financial needs. We are praying that this Foundation will grow strong and businesses will make donations to help these families. All donations, of course, are tax deductible. We will continue to have fund-raisers to put money into the Foundation and we are soliciting help from the community. No one ever knows when a tragedy will hit home,

but if it does we are hoping that this Foundation will be a resource. For further information you can contact Marlene Anderson 756-7297 or Connie Gorham-Walston 355-7012. For donations send checks to: Bone Marrow Foundation of Eastern NC, c/o Attorney Earl T. Brown, P.O. Box 2216, Greenville, NC 27836-2216



Hardworking & dedication, heel sew quik, located at The Carolina East Mall - Owner brother Marvin Staton is shown displaying the award he received for being #1 heel sew quik in the country. Brother Marvin Staton is a member of Victory Christian Assembly. Also shown with brother Staton is his Pastor Bishop Paul Thomas.